

accordance with NEPA and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act.

The Services are furnishing this notice to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions and to announce the initiation of a 60-day public scoping period during which other agencies and the public are invited to provide written comments on the scope of issues and potential alternatives to be included in the EIS.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before November 22, 1999. Public hearings have been scheduled (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for dates, times, and locations).

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and requests for additional information should be sent to the HPA HCP Project, WDFW Habitat Program, 600 Capitol Way North, MS 43200, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091, E-mailed to HPAHCPComments@dfw.wa.gov or submitted on-line via the WDFW web site, <http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/>. From this site, click on "Habitat Sciences," then to the HPA/HCP Project under "Permits and Regulations." Select the draft document to which your comments refer, then follow the directions to complete and send the on-screen response form.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Romanski, FWS, 510 Desmond Drive, SE, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503-1273, telephone (360) 753-5823, facsimile (360) 534-9331; or Gordon Zillges, NMFS, 510 Desmond Drive, SE, Suite 103, Lacey, Washington 98503-1273, telephone (360) 753-9090, facsimile (360) 453-9517.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** WDFW is responsible under State law for the protection of Washington State's fish and wildlife resources. Chapter 75.20 Revised Code of Washington directs WDFW to review, and approve as appropriate, hydraulic projects or other work that will use, divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or bed of any of the salt or fresh waters of the State, to ensure the proper protection of fish and shellfish life. The authority under which HPAs are written only applies to fish and shellfish. Standards for fish protection by specific project type are set in Chapter 220-110 Washington Administrative Code. WDFW issues 6,000 to 8,000 HPAs in a typical year.

Each project conducted pursuant to a HPA has the potential to impact fish or shellfish species that are subject to protection under the ESA. Section 10(a)(2)(B) of the ESA contains provisions for the issuance of permits to non-Federal entities for the take of

endangered and threatened species, provided the take is incidental to otherwise lawful activities and will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild. An applicant for a permit under Section 10 of the ESA must prepare and submit to the Services for approval a Plan containing a strategy for minimizing and mitigating, to the maximum extent practicable, all take associated with the proposed activities. The applicant must also ensure that adequate funding for the proposed Plan will be provided.

WDFW has initiated discussions with the Services regarding the possibility of a permit and associated programmatic Plan for the activities associated with HPA issuance throughout the State. The proposed Plan is expected to encompass all HPA types and forms issued by WDFW and will address impacts to all Federal proposed or listed fish or shellfish species in Washington State waters.

The Services will conduct an environmental review of the Plan and prepare an EIS. The environmental review will analyze the proposal as well as a full range of reasonable alternatives and the associated impacts of each. The Services and WDFW are currently in the process of developing alternatives for analysis. Alternatives thus far include a No Action Alternative and one Plan Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, WDFW would not have incidental take coverage for HPAs issued. The applicant's Plan Alternative proposes that WDFW implement the proposed Plan throughout the State and the Services issue incidental take permits. The scoping process will be used to develop additional alternatives.

Comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties to ensure that the full range of issues related to these proposed actions are addressed and that all significant issues are identified. Comments, questions or requests for additional information concerning this proposed action and the environmental review should be directed to the HPA HCP Project, WDFW (see **ADDRESSES**).

Public meetings are scheduled to be held at the following times and locations: October 6, 1999, from 7:00-9:30 p.m., Washington State Capitol Campus, General Administration Building Auditorium, 210 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Olympia, Washington; October 7, 1999, from 7:00-9:30 p.m., Central Washington University Student Union Building, Yakima Room, Ellensburg, Washington; October 12, 1999 from 7:00-9:30 p.m., at the Cowlitz County Public Utility District, 961 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Longview, Washington; October 14,

1999, from 7:00-9:30 p.m., at the Everett Community College, Jackson Center, JCR Room, 801 Wetmore Avenue, Everett, Washington; October 19, 1999, from 7:00-9:30 p.m., at the Spokane Falls Community College, Student Union Building in Lounge Rooms A and B, 3410 West Fort George Wright Drive, Spokane, Washington; and October 20, 1999, from 7:00-9:30 p.m., Okanogan Public Utility District, 1331 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), the requirements of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 197-11 WAC and Chapter 43.21C RCW) and of other appropriate Federal laws and regulations and policies and procedures of the Services for compliance with those regulations. We estimate the draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available for public review during December of 2000.

Dated: September 16, 1999.

**Cynthia U. Barry,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.*

Dated: September 17, 1999.

**Wanda L. Cain,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-24764 Filed 9-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F, 4310-55-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091399E]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 987 (File No. P598)

**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. Jim Darling, Box 384, Tofino, B.C., Canada VO4 2Z0, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 987.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before October 25, 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. 987, issued on January 18, 1996 (61 FR 2232) 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 222-226).

Permit No. 987 authorizes the permit holder to take (i.e., harass) annually up to 1000 humpback whales and 500 humpback whales in Hawaii and Alaska, respectively, during the course of behavioral, photo-identification, and genetic studies, of which up to 200 animals may be biopsy sampled annually. The permittee is now requesting that the permit, including the annual take authorization, be extended for an additional year.

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**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: September 17, 1999.

**Ann Terbush,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-24762 Filed 9-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091599B]

#### Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 522-1527-00)

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Randall S. Wells, Ph.D., Mote Marine Laboratory, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, Florida 34236, has applied in due form for a permit to take (i.e., harass) Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before October 25, 1999. **ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813/570-5312).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Director, 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 application would be appropriate.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this

application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

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

The application requests authorization to harass up to 100 Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) annually in Florida waters during the conduct of photo-identification and biopsy sampling activities. The research will be carried out over a 5-year period.

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: September 17, 1999.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-24763 Filed 9-22-99; 8:45 am]

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## COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:** Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 11:00 a.m., Friday, October 1, 1999.

**PLACE:** 1155 21st St., NW, Washington, DC, 9th Floor Conference Room.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED:** Surveillance Matters.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

**Jean A. Webb,**

*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 99-24925 Filed 9-21-99; 2:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

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## COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:** Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 11:00 a.m., Friday, October 8, 1999.