

on these reports, the AP may recommend levels of total allowable catch (TAC) for red snapper in 2000 and other appropriate management measures.

The Reef Fish AP, consisting of recreational reef fish fishermen, commercial reef fish fishermen, and seafood dealers will review a red grouper stock assessment that has been prepared by NMFS and reports from the Council's Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel and Socioeconomic Panel that include biological, social and economic information related to the range of ABC. Based on these reports, the AP may recommend levels of TAC for red grouper in 2000 and other appropriate management measures.

The Standing SSC consists of economists, biologists, sociologists, and natural resource attorneys; and the Special Reef Fish SSC consists of fishery biologists who specialize in reef fish biology. The joint SSC will review several reports containing scientific information about gag and gag fisheries that was recently presented to the Council by Dr. Chris Koenig of Florida State University and by Dr. Trevor Kenchington on behalf of the Southeastern Fisheries Association. Because some of the information in those reports is conflicting, the joint SSC is being asked to review and comment on them. The joint SSC will also review the red snapper and red grouper stock assessments and the Socioeconomic Panel report, comment on their scientific adequacy, and may make recommendations regarding red snapper and red grouper TAC and other management measures.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by contacting the Gulf Council (see ADDRESSES). Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the Red Snapper AP, Reef Fish AP, and Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the Red Snapper AP, Reef Fish AP, and Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for

sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by October 18, 1999.

Dated: October 5, 1999.

#### Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090299B]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 684-1458-01

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Donald B. Siniff, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, University of Minnesota, College of Biological Sciences, 100 Ecology Building, 1987 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 684-1458.

ADDRESSES: The amendment 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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 28, 1999, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 40835) that an amendment of Permit No. 684-1458, issued August 7, 1998 (63 FR 43914), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment has been granted 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 Permit, as amended, authorizes the Holder to capture and tag up to 400 female and 300 male, and tissue and blood sample 200 female and 180 pup Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) per season.

Dated: October 4, 1999.

#### Ann D. Terbush,

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

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### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091399C]

#### Marine Mammals; Permit No. 941 (File No. P524A)

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Permit No. 941, issued to the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hawaii Hall 105, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, was amended.

ADDRESSES: See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak or Trevor Spradlin, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the provisions of the regulations governing endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Permit No. 941 authorizes the harassment of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) during the conduct of observational and photo-identification studies in Hawaii waters. This amendment authorizes the extension of the expiration date through April 30, 2000.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

#### Addresses

The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices: