

This five-year ("sunset") review and notice are in accordance with sections 751(c), 752, and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: December 23, 1999.

Richard W. Moreland,
Acting Assistant Secretary for Import
Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-33975 Filed 12-29-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121399B]

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 763-1534 and P624

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that two applicants have applied in due form for a permit and permit amendment for purposes of scientific research. The National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20008-2598, wants a permit to import grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) specimens. Dr. Michael Moore, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, MS 33 Biology Department, Woods Hole, MA 02543, wants to amend permit no. 1032.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before January 31, 2000.

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); and

[763-1534 and P624] - Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (978/281-9250); and

[P624] - Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813/570-5312);

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permits are 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 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*)

The Smithsonian, NZP (File No. 763-1534-00) proposes to import from Canada skin samples taken from grey seals on Sable Island, Nova Scotia. Additionally, the applicant requests authority to obtain and import/export samples from all species of the Order Cetacea and Pinnipedia as they become available. The objective of the study is to use DNA analysis to determine if grey seal alternative mating strategies exist across all ages and provide comparable rates of success to the primary tenured strategy.

Dr. Moore (File No. P624) proposes to amend Permit No. 1032 which authorizes research on right whales and various other cetaceans. Dr. Moore requests an amendment to expand the area of activity to all U.S. and international waters; biopsy right whales, blue whales, sei whales and sperm whales, include acoustic analysis of blubber thickness, and conduct visual and passive acoustic surveys on marine mammals.

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.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on either 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 these particular requests 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.

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: December 23, 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.110499B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 772#69-03

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 8604 La Jolla shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92038 has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 1024 (File No. 772#69).

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);

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 5, 1999, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 54002) that an amendment of Permit No. 1024, issued December 30, 1996 (62 FR 1875), had been requested by the above-named organization. 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.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of 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. 1024 authorizes the permit holder to: conduct level B harassment activities [*i.e.* censuses] on, capture, handle, and release Antarctic pinnipeds in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica. The holder is now authorized to increase the number of