

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: Jill Lewandowski or Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The permit application No. 753-1599-00 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).

The applicant requests authorization to conduct research on humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) in the state waters of Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and/or California. The overall objective of the proposed research is to study the mating behavior, social organization and behavioral ecology of these species. The applicant requests to conduct this research over a five year period.

The applicant specifically requests authorization for (1) 4,000 total annual takes of humpback whales through photo-identification, close approach, incidental harassment, sound recording, aerial photogrammetry and underwater observation with 400 of these annual takes for biopsy sampling; and (2) 500 total annual takes of gray whales through photo-identification, close approach, incidental harassment, sound recording, aerial photogrammetry and underwater observation with 100 of these annual takes for biopsy sampling. The applicant also requests authorization to import collected tissue into the U.S. and dissect/collect tissues, particularly related to sound production systems, of dead humpback and gray 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.

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: August 23, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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Billing Code: 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

National Medal of Technology 2001 Award Program

AGENCY: Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Announcement of the National Medal of Technology 2001 Award Program.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, Technology Administration (TA), is accepting nominations for its year 2001 National Medal of Technology Award Program.

Established by Congress in 1980, the President of the United States awards the National Medal of Technology annually to our nation's leading innovators. If you know of a candidate who has made an outstanding contribution in technology, send for a nomination packet now.

DATES: The deadline for submission of an application is December 15, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The 2001 Nomination Applications can be obtained from the National Medal of Technology Program Office, Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 4226, Washington, D.C. 20230. The packets are also available by visiting the NMT website at NMT@ta.doc.gov or by faxing the office at 202/501-8153.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew J. Fowell, Acting Director, 202-482-5572.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Medal of Technology is the highest honor bestowed by the President of the United States to America's leading innovators. Enacted by Congress in 1980, the Medal of Technology was first awarded in 1985. The Medal is given annually to individuals, teams, or companies for accomplishments in the innovation, development, commercialization, and management of technology, as evidenced by the establishment of new or significantly improved products, processes, or services.

The primary purpose of the National Medal of Technology is to recognize technological innovators who have made lasting contributions to enhancing America's competitiveness and standard of living. The Medal highlights the national importance of fostering technological innovation based upon solid science, resulting in commercially successful products and services.

The Selection Process

A distinguished, independent committee representing both private and public sectors evaluates the merits of all candidates nominated through an open, competitive solicitation process. The U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of the Under Secretary for Technology is responsible for administering the National Medal of Technology. Committee recommendations are forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce who then makes recommendations to the President for final decision.

The Awards Presentation

Each year the National Medal of Technology awards are presented by the President in a joint White House ceremony with the National Medal of Science. (The National Medal of Science is administered by the National Science Foundation.) An award's dinner sponsored by the National Science and Technology Medals Foundation and other events are planned around the White House ceremony.

For over a decade, the Medal has celebrated the extraordinary achievements of American trailblazers, fostering a national legacy and inspiring future innovators. Of the 126 Medals of Technology awarded since 1985, 115 have been awarded to individuals or teams. Eleven has been awarded to companies.

Cheryl L. Shavers,

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology,
Technology Administration.*

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CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Renewal of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the "Corporation") has submitted the following public information collection