

work of the Committee, and ability to work with governmental and officials and industry representatives to reach consensus on complex environmental and trade issues affecting the relevant industry sector.

(3) Preference will be accorded nominees who also demonstrate knowledge of and familiarity with the relevant industry sector, as well as with international trade matters, including trade policy development, relevant to that sector.

The environmental representative, as a member of the Committee, will be required to have a security clearance. Members serve without compensation and are responsible for all expenses incurred in attending Committee meetings.

#### 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, D.C. 20230.

This notice is issued under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., app. 2) and 21 CFR part 14 relating to advisory committees.

**Michael J. Copps,**

*Assistant Secretary for Trade Development.*  
[FR Doc. 00-24890 Filed 9-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-U

---

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090600A]

#### Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Construction and Operation of Offshore Oil and Gas Facilities in the Beaufort Sea

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

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of a letter of authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that a letter of authorization (LOA) to take a small number of marine mammals incidental to construction and operation of offshore oil and gas facilities at the Northstar development in the Beaufort Sea off Alaska has been issued to BP

Exploration (Alaska), Anchorage, AK (BPXA).

**DATES:** This LOA is effective from September 18, 2000, through November 30, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the application and LOA are available for review in the following offices: Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and Western Alaska Field Office, NMFS, 701 C Street, Anchorage, AK 99513.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kenneth R. Hollingshead (301) 713-2055, ext. 128, or Brad Smith (907) 271-5006.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made by NMFS and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term  $\geq$ taking $\geq$  means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals, will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) of marine mammals for subsistence uses, and if regulations are prescribed setting forth the permissible methods of taking and the requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of marine mammals incidental to construction and operation of the offshore oil and gas facility at Northstar in the Beaufort Sea were published and made effective on May 25, 2000 (65 FR 34014), and remain in effect until May 25, 2005.

#### Summary of Request

On November 30, 1998 (64 FR 9965, March 1, 1999), NMFS received a request from BPXA for an incidental, small take exemption under section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA to take marine mammals incidental to construction and operation of an offshore oil and gas facility at Northstar in state and Federal waters. Because of delays in construction during 1999, and in issuing a proposed rule on this matter, on October 1, 1999, BPXA updated its application to NMFS. On October 22, 1999 (64 FR 57010), NMFS published a notice of proposed

rulemaking on BPXA's application and invited interested persons to submit comments, information, and suggestions concerning the application and proposed rule. These comments were addressed during the promulgation of final rulemaking on this action, which was published on May 25, 2000 (65 FR 34014). A complete description of the activity, the level of taking of marine mammals, and other concerns can be found in this document.

Issuance of this LOA is based on findings, described in the preamble to the final rule, that the total takings by this activity will result in only small numbers of marine mammals being taken, have no more than a negligible impact on marine mammal stocks in the Beaufort Sea, and not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the affected marine mammal stocks for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS finds that BPXA has met the requirements contained in the implementing regulations, including monitoring and reporting requirements.

Dated: September 18, 2000.

**Donald R. Knowles,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-24938 Filed 9-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

---

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**SUMMARY:** The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 27, 2000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information