

authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and/or the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). Regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 and 50 CFR 635.32 govern scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activity with respect to Atlantic highly migratory species.

Issuance of EFPs and/or SRPs may be necessary because possession of certain shark species is prohibited, possession of billfishes on board commercial fishing vessels is prohibited, and because the commercial fisheries for bluefin tuna, swordfish and large coastal sharks may be closed for extended periods, during which collection of live animals and/or biological samples would otherwise be prohibited. In addition, NMFS regulations at 50 CFR 635.32 regarding implantation or attachment of archival tags in Atlantic highly migratory species require prior authorization and a report on implantation activities.

NMFS also seeks public comment on its intention to issue EFPs for the purpose of collecting biological samples under at-sea fisheries observer programs. NMFS intends to issue EFPs to any NMFS or NMFS-approved observer to bring onboard and possess, for scientific research purposes, biological sampling, measurement, etc., any Atlantic swordfish, Atlantic shark, or Atlantic billfish, provided the fish is a recaptured tagged fish, a dead fish prior to being brought onboard, or specifically authorized for sampling by the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries at the request of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center or Northeast Fisheries Science Center. In total, 169 swordfish and 44 sharks were collected by at-sea observers under such EFPs in 2000.

Collection of bluefin tuna would be authorized for scientific research age and growth, genetic, and spawning studies. In 2000, five permits for bluefin tuna archival tagging and research were issued. In 2001, pursuant to ICCAT recommendations calling for research that addresses bluefin tuna spawning locations, NMFS intends to issue SRPs and/or EFPs for U.S. participation in an international program that could involve the landing of up to 15 metric tons of bluefin tuna for scientific sampling. This would be in addition to SRPs and EFPs issued for other tuna research.

NMFS also intends to continue to issue EFPs to vessel operators requesting offloading windows in the Atlantic Swordfish fishery, in the event the swordfish fishery is closed and a

vessel is not equipped with a vessel monitoring system that would enable it to remain at sea after the announced closure date. NMFS anticipates that commercial EFP applicants would be captains of larger vessels out on extended trips at the time of a closure announcement. These applicants would benefit from delayed offloading by avoiding market gluts and cold storage problems.

Several EFPs have been issued in the past authorizing the retention of Atlantic Skipjack tuna as an allowable incidental species while fishing for other species using coastal driftnet gear. Comments have been received that vessels intend to participate in this fishery during 2001, and NMFS intends to issue a limited number of EFPs again to collect vessel effort information and to monitor bycatch of all species caught by coastal driftnetters while fishing for other species.

NMFS also seeks public comment on its intention to issue EFPs for distant water pelagic longline vessels for the purpose of expanding access of U.S. vessels into other markets while continuing to collect information about U.S. fishing effort and landings. NMFS would consider applications from any U.S. Atlantic pelagic longline vessel. NMFS intends to issue such EFPs to any U.S. vessel fishing under contract to another nation, provided its landings and discards are consistent with ICCAT recommendations and, due to the requirements of the contract, those landings are being reported to ICCAT by that other nation or otherwise appropriately accounted for.

NMFS is also seeking public comment on its intention to issue EFPs for the collection of restricted species of sharks for the purposes of public display. In the HMS FMP, NMFS established a public display quota of 60 metric tons wet stweight for this purpose. NMFS has preliminarily determined that up to 3,000 sharks could be taken with this current quota and such harvest would be consistent with the most recent environmental impact statement prepared for this fishery. NMFS believes that harvesting this amount for public display will have a minimal impact on the stock. In 2000, 14 EFPs were issued for the collection of sharks for display purposes.

Generally, the authorized collections or exemptions would involve activities otherwise prohibited by regulations implementing the Final Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks (HMS FMP) and Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Billfish Management Plan. The EFPs, if issued, would authorize recipients to fish for

and possess tunas, billfishes, swordfish and sharks outside the applicable Federal commercial seasons, size limits and retention limits, or to fish for and possess prohibited species.

In the near future, NMFS intends to undertake rulemaking to revise general aspects of the procedures for issuing EFPs. Permits will be issued under the current regulations and be valid until new regulations become effective, which is expected to be June 1, 2001, at which time revised permits may be issued. A final decision on issuance of any EFPs/SRPs will depend on the submission of all required information about the proposed activities, NMFS' review of public comments received on this notice, conclusions of any environmental analyses conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and on any consultations with any appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, states, or Federal agencies. NMFS does not anticipate any environmental impacts from the issuance of these EFPs other than impacts already assessed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and any subsequent Environmental Assessments or EISs contained in the Final HMS FMP (64 FR 13575; March 19, 1999).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 28, 2000.

Valerie L. Chambers,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 01-204 Filed 1-3-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121900B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 924-1484.

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. 924-1484-00, issued to Marsha Green, Ph.D., Albright College, P.O. Box 15234, Reading, PA 19612-5234, was amended.

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

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS,

1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4027); and

Pacific Islands Area Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1110, Honolulu HI 96814-4700 (808/973-2935).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Trevor Spradlin or Jill Lewandowski, 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 § 222.306 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The permit has been amended to (1) change the expiration date to August 31, 2005; (2) authorize the close approach to spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*), spotted dolphins (*Stenella attenuata*) and bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) that are associating with humpback whales; and (3) increase the number of annual humpback whale takes to 350 for controlled vessel approaches and 700 for audio/video recordings.

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.

Dated: December 28, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 01-206 Filed 1-3-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Notice of Transmittal of Final Sequestration Report for Fiscal Year 2001 to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget

Pursuant to section 254(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(b)), the Congressional Budget Office hereby reports that it has submitted its Final Sequestration Report for Fiscal Year 2001 to the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Office of Management and Budget.

Dan L. Crippen,

Director.

[FR Doc. 01-295 Filed 1-2-01; 9:59 am]

BILLING CODE 00-0702-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection requests.

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

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507 (j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by January 5, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Lauren Wittenberg, Acting Desk Officer: Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget; 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (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, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, *e.g.*, new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. ED invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: December 28, 2000.

John Tressler,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Type of Review: New.

Title: Application for the Transition to Teaching Program.

Abstract: The Transition to Teaching Program provides grants to local educational agencies, state educational agencies, educational service agencies, nonprofit agencies and organizations to support their efforts to recruit talented and capable individuals from other fields to become licensed or certified classroom teachers.

Additional Information: Due to the unexpected delay in passage of an appropriations law, ED is requesting an emergency review of this information collection in order to make awards in sufficient time for applicants to participate in the Transition for Teaching Program. Based upon the occurrence of this unanticipated event, and the public harm that might otherwise occur with delaying grant awards so that the opportunity is missed to support efforts in recruiting