

a LOA, 4 hours will be required for on-site monitoring activities, and 8 hours will be required to complete each final monitoring report. We estimate that seven companies will be requesting LOAs and submitting monitoring reports annually for each of seven sites in the region covered by the specific regulations.

Title: Marine Mammals: Incidental Take During Specified Activities.

Bureau form number: None.

Frequency of collection: Biannually.

Description of respondents: Oil and gas industry companies.

Number of respondents: 7 for each of 7 active sites per year (49).

Estimated completion time: For the one time request to promulgate the procedural rule, a 200-hour application burden is estimated. Annually for three years, 8 hours per LOA, 4 hours for on-site monitoring, and 8 hours per final monitoring reports are estimated for each requesting company for seven active sites (20 hours × 7 companies × 7 sites = 980 hours × 3 years = 2,940 + 200 = 3,140 hours burden for three years).

Burden estimate: 3,140 hours.

Dated: February 9, 2001.

Rebecca A. Mullin,

Information Collection Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

Endangered Species

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*). Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Applicant: Joe Milton Thompson, Bonsall, CA

PRT-038549

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management

program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Diane C. Brumbelow, Dallas, TX

PRT-038559

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Duke University, Durham, NC

PRT-038508

The applicant requests a permit to export and re-import non-living museum specimens of endangered and threatened species of plants and animals previously accessioned into the permittee's collection, for scientific research. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant for a five year period.

Marine Mammals

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application(s) was submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

Written data, comments or requests for copies of these complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281. These requests must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

PRT-038448

Applicant: Iskande L. V. Larkin, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Permit Type: scientific research.

Name and Number of Animals: Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), 5 females.

Summary of Activity to be Authorized: The applicant requests a permit to study the reproductive physiology and indicators of stress by taking and using urine, fecal, blood, and vaginal smear samples from 4 captive

females and fecal samples from 1 wild female to measure steroid and protein reproductive hormone concentrations and glucocorticosteroids.

Source of Marine Mammals: 2 captive females at Miami Seaquarium; 2 captive females at Living Seas, Epcot; 1 wild female as identified and tagged by Sirenia Project personnel.

Period of Activity: 1 year.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Division of Management Authority is forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Applicant: James Grookett, Rockledge, PA

PRT-037534

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted prior to May 31, 2000, from the McClintock Channel polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has information collection approval from OMB through February 28, 2001. OMB Control Number 1018-0093. Federal Agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: February 2, 2001.

Anna Barry,

Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 01-3753 Filed 2-13-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plans and Finding of No Significant Impact for Edwin B. Forsythe and Cape May National Wildlife Refuges, the Jersey Coast Refuges

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared Final Comprehensive Conservation Plans, an associated Environmental Assessment, and a Finding of No Significant Impact for

both Edwin B. Forsythe and Cape May National Wildlife Refuges in New Jersey, collectively referred to as the Jersey Coast Refuges. These documents were prepared in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and its implementing regulations.

The Acting Regional Director, Northeast Regional Office, in making his decision considered a reasonable range of three management alternatives discussed in the Environmental Assessment. The three alternatives were:

Alternative A. This was the No Action Alternative requirement by the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations on the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act. Under this Alternative there would be no change from our current management programs and emphasis at both Refuges. Seasonal travel and parking of motor vehicles would continue to be allowed in the Holgate Unit of the Brigantine Wilderness Area, on lands above mean high tide, in violation of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The beach at the Two Mile Beach Unit would continue to be closed to access by the public.

Alternative B. This was the Service's Proposed Action. This Alternative would initiate new wildlife population and habitat management programs; provide new wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities; increase our land protection efforts; and provide new office and visitor facilities at both Refuges. All lands above mean high tide in the Holgate Unit of the Brigantine Wilderness Area would be closed to motor vehicles by the public year-round in compliance with the Wilderness Act. We would initiate efforts to establish a seasonal boat concession to ferry anglers and other Refuge visitors to the southern tip of the Holgate Peninsula. The beach at the Two Mile Beach Unit would be open to seasonal access by the public.

Alternative C. This Alternative would initiate new wildlife population and habitat management programs; provide new wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities Refuge-wide; increase our land protection efforts; and provide new or remodeled office and visitor facilities at both Refuges. All lands above mean high tide in the Holgate Unit of the Brigantine Wilderness Area would be closed to motor vehicle access by the public year-round in compliance with the Wilderness Act. We would also seek to further restrict motor vehicle access at the Holgate Unit by obtaining a license from the New Jersey Tidelands Council to close State-owned riparian lands below the mean high line. We

would initiate efforts to establish a seasonal boat concession to ferry anglers and other Refuge visitors to the southern tip of the Holgate Peninsula. The beach at the Two Mile Beach Unit would be open year-round to access by the public.

Based on the analysis provided in the Environmental Assessment and the comments received from the public, the Acting Regional Director selected Alternative B (the Service's Proposed Action) to be enacted on the Refuges.

Alternative B was selected because it best achieves Refuge purposes, vision and goals; helps fulfill the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System; maintains and, where appropriate, restores the ecological integrity of both Refuges and the Refuge System; addresses the significant issues and mandates; and is consistent with the principles of sound fish and wildlife management.

Based on his evaluation, the Acting Regional Director determined that the implementation of Alternative B would not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act and concluded that an environmental impact statement is not required. However, since the proposed closure of the Holgate Unit of the Brigantine Wilderness Area to motor vehicle use by the public above mean high tide has been highly controversial, he decided to provide a 30-day public review period for this period for this Finding of No Significant Impact prior to signing it. The public review period will end 30 days after this Notice is published. This public review period is in compliance with Council of Environmental Quality Regulation 1501.4(e)(2).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of either Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan, or the Finding of No Significant Impact, may be obtained by contacting: Mr. Stephen Atzert, Refuge Manager, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 72, Great Creek Road, Oceanville, NJ 08231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and Service policy require that all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System be managed in accordance with an approved refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The Plan guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The Service's planning process considered many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and land acquisition, wildlife-

dependent recreational uses, and cultural resources. Public input into the planning process also assisted in the development of the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plans, Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact. The Plans will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuges and how the Service will implement its management strategies.

Dated: January 25, 2001.

G. Adam O'Hara,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.

[FR Doc. 01-3691 Filed 2-13-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has published a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. This plan describes how the Service intends to manage the refuge over the next 15 years. The refuge is composed of all or part of 21 islands covering over 3,200 acres in four states (West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Ohio).

DATES: A public meeting will be held in each of the four states, with dates, times and addresses to be announced later in local newspapers and on the regional website (<http://northeast.fws.gov>). The meetings will provide an opportunity for all interested parties to present oral or written testimony on the draft document. The public meetings will be held in late February and early March.

All other comments should be sent by either traditional or electronic mail, no later than 45 days from date of this publication, to: Thomas Bonetti, Planning Team Leader, Northeast Regional Office, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035-9589; or FW5RW_CCP@fws.gov.

ADDRESSES: Additional information or copies of the Draft CCP/EA may be obtained by contacting Thomas Bonetti at the above address, or by contacting Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, 3004 7th Street, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1811, telephone 304/422-0752.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment fully