

occurring in Puerto Rican waters for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before March 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment. (See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan or Ruth Johnson, office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR parts 18 and 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 17 and 222-226).

The Applicant requests authorization to conduct aerial surveys for marine mammals and sea turtles in near-shore waters of Vieques, Puerto Rico. Marine mammal species include: from Suborder Mysticeti, Family Balaenopteridae: Bryde's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*); from Suborder Odontoceti, Family Physteridae: Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia breviceps*), dwarf sperm whale (*Kogia simus*); from Suborder Odontoceti, Family Ziphiidae: Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*), Blainville's beaked whale (*Mesoplodon densirostris*), Gervis' beaked whale (*Mesoplodon europaeus*), True's beaked whale (*Mesoplodon mirus*); from Suborder Odontoceti, Family Delphinidae: Melon-headed whale (*Peponocephala electra*), short-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), false killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*), pygmy killer whale (*Feresa attenuata*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), rough-toothed dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*), Atlantic spotted dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*), pantropical spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*), striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*), clymene dolphin (*Stenella clymene*), common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis (capensis)*), killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), Fraser's dolphin

(*Lagenodelphis hosei*); from Order Carnivora, Suborder Pinnipedia, Family Phocidae: Hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*); from Order Sirenia, Family Trichechidae: West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). Sea turtle species include: from Suborder Cryptodira, Family Dermochelyidae: Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*); from Family Cheloniidae: Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*).

The surveys would take place from fixed-wing and rotary wing aircraft flying no lower than 500 ft (152 m) above ground or sea level. The objective of the surveys is to determine occurrence, migration routes, and habitat utilization for the species occurring in the Inner Range, Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility, Vieques. This area includes all waters surrounding the east end of Vieques for a distance of approximately 2 miles offshore. The results of this study will be used to assist the Navy in the planning of exercises conducted in this area. Data from these surveys would also be used in ongoing section 7 consultation under the ESA.

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.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this 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 this particular 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 by other electronic media.

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.

Documents associated with this application are in the following locations:

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930 (978/281-9138)

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

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (1-800-358-2104).

Dated: January 29, 2001.

Eugene T. Nitta,

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

Dated: January 30, 2001.

Timothy J. Van Norman,

Chief, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 01-4414 Filed 2-21-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020901E]

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Crustacean Fisheries; 2001 Bank-specific Harvest Guidelines

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

ACTION: No harvest guideline for crustaceans.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that annual harvest guidelines for the commercial lobster fishery around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) will not be issued for 2001.

ADDRESSES: Copies of background material pertaining to this action may be obtained from Dr. Charles Karnella, Administrator, NMFS, Pacific Islands Area Office, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1101, Honolulu, HI 96814.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alvin Katekaru at 808-973-2937.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Fishery Management Plan for the Crustacean Fisheries of the Western

Pacific Region, 50 CFR 660.50(b)(2), NMFS is required to publish by February 28 of each year, the harvest guidelines for lobster Permit Area 1 around the NWHI. The year 2000 NWHI lobster fishery was closed because of concerns raised by NMFS scientists about the health of the fishery and as a precautionary measure to prevent overfishing of the lobster resources. Furthermore, NMFS is under a Court Order issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii to keep the crustacean fisheries closed until an Environmental Impact Statement and a Biological Opinion have been prepared and issued for the crustacean fisheries. In addition, recently issued Executive Orders 13178 and 13196 appear to close indefinitely the entire NWHI crustacean fishery. Given these events, NMFS announces that it will not be publishing any harvest guidelines for this fishery for the year 2001. Although no regulatory action has been taken to close the NWHI lobster fishery for 2001, NMFS anticipates that this will occur in the near future. Therefore, no harvest of NWHI lobster resources will be allowed and effectively the harvest guideline will be zero. In addition, there is still uncertainty regarding the model assumptions used by NMFS scientists to estimate the exploitable lobster population. However, as indicated in the NMFS 2001 "Report to Congress" on the status of fisheries, the lobster stock is not overfished. NMFS intends to conduct biological research on the status of NWHI lobster resources and to examine the resulting data for indications as to the appropriate direction for future fishery management actions.

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

Dated: February 15, 2001.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 01-4415 Filed 2-21-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board; Notice of Meeting

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Committee Meetings.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board (DSB) Task Force on Intelligence Needs for Homeland Defense Follow-On Initiative will meet in closed session on February 27-28, 2001; March 27-28

2001; and April 24-25, 2001, at Strategic Analysis, Inc., 3601 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201. This Task Force will explore the intelligence ramifications posed by a changing spectrum of threat regimes, including biological, chemical, information, nuclear, and radiological weapons.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At these meetings, the Defense Science Board Task Force will: consider the broad spectrum of intelligence issues from early threat detection to deterrence, through response including attribution; evaluate the collection and analysis of target-related information and weapon unique information; examine the role of HUMINT against these missions as well as the technology that the HUMINT collectors need to be equipped with; consider strategic indications and warning and tactical warning dissemination and how the two need to be merged; analyze methodology to correlate large data flows spatially temporally and functionally (Low SNR); and assess the robustness of today's intelligence apparatus for coping with these challenges.

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. No. 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. II), it has been determined that these Defense Science Board meetings, concern matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1), and that accordingly these meetings will be closed to the public.

Due to critical mission requirements and scheduling conflicts, there is insufficient time to provide timely notice required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and Subsection 101-6.1015(b) of the GSA Final Rule on Federal Advisory Committee Management, 41 CFR Part 101-6, which further requires publication at least 15 calendar days prior to the meeting of the Task Force.

Dated: February 14, 2001.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 01-4333 Filed 2-21-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board; Notice of Meeting

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Committee Meetings.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board (DSB) Task Force on Training for Future Conflicts will meet in closed session on February 28, 2001, at SAIC, 4001 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201. This Task Force will focus on identifying and characterizing what education and training are demanded by Joint Vision 2010/2020, and will address the development and demonstration time phasing over the next two decades for the combined triad of technology modernization, operational concepts, and training.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At these meetings, the Defense Science Board Task Force will also identify those approaches and techniques that potential enemies might take that could prepare them to revolutionize their warfare capabilities, thereby achieving a training surprise against the U.S. or its allies. This review will include, but not be limited to, unique training/education developments which might be spawned by allies or an adversary, training techniques and methodologies which might be transferred from the U.S. or through third parties, and finally, the possibilities emerging as a result of the globalization of military and information technologies, related commercial services and their application by other nations.

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. No. 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. II), it has been determined that this Defense Science Board meeting, concerns matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1), and that accordingly this meeting will be closed to the public.

Due to critical mission requirements and scheduling conflicts, there is insufficient time to provide timely notice required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and Subsection 101-6.1015(b) of the GSA Final Rule on Federal Advisory Committee Management, 41 CFR Part 101-6, which further requires publication at least 15 calendar days prior to the meeting of the Task Force.