

primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act as amended in 1988 requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individual responses to comments will not be provided.

The Pacific coast western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) breeding population currently extends from Damon Point, Washington, to Bahia Magdalena, Baja California, Mexico. Snowy plovers (Pacific coast population) breed primarily above the high tide line on coastal beaches, sand spits, dune-backed beaches, sparsely-vegetated dunes, beaches at creek and river mouths, and salt pans at lagoons and estuaries. Less common nesting habitats include bluff-backed beaches, dredged material disposal sites, salt pond levees, dry salt ponds, and river bars. The snowy plover winters mainly in coastal areas from southern Washington to Central America. In winter, snowy plovers are found on many of the beaches used for nesting as well as beaches where they do not nest, in man-made salt ponds, and on estuarine sand and mud flats. Habitat degradation caused by human disturbance, urban development, introduced beachgrass (*Ammophila spp.*), and expanding predator populations have resulted in a decline in active nesting areas and in the size of the breeding and wintering populations.

The primary objective of this recovery plan is to remove the Pacific coast western snowy plover population from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants by achieving well-distributed increases in numbers and productivity of breeding adult birds, and providing for long-term protection of breeding and wintering plovers and their habitat. Specific actions needed to achieve this objective include (1) protection of breeding and wintering habitat; (2) monitoring and managing breeding habitat; (3) monitoring and managing wintering and migration areas; (4) undertaking scientific research that facilitates recovery efforts; (5) public participation, outreach and education; and (6) establishing an international conservation program with the Mexican government to protect snowy plovers and their breeding and wintering locations in Mexico.

#### Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of this plan.

Below is a schedule of public outreach workshops:

September 18: Santa Barbara, California, at the Radisson Hotel from 1–3 and 6–8 p.m.

September 19: South Bend, Washington, at the South Bend Community Center from 1–3 and 7–9 p.m.

September 24: Marin City, California, at the Marin City High School auditorium from 1–3 and 6–8 p.m.

September 25: Monterey, California, at the Monterey Conference Center from 1–3 and 6–8 p.m. Bandon, Oregon, at the Barn Community Center from 6–8 p.m.

September 26: Florence, Oregon, at the Convention Center from 6–8 p.m.

September 27: San Luis Obispo, California, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, from 1–3 and 6–8 p.m.

October 3 Arcata, California, at the Arcata Community Center from 3–5 and 7–9 pm.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: August 7, 2001.

#### John Engbring,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 01–20374 Filed 8–13–01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Re-Opening of Comment Period for Marine Mammal Permit Applications; PRT–020575 and 043001

The Fish and Wildlife Service is re-opening the comment period for applications submitted by Aquamarine Fukushima, Iwaki, Japan, PRT–020575, and Ibaraki Prefectural Oarai Aquarium, Ibaraki, Japan, PRT–043001, to conduct certain activities with marine mammals, specifically, the taking of northern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris lutris*) from the wild in Alaska for export and public display in Japan. These applications were submitted to satisfy the 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). A notice of receipt of these applications for a permit was published in the **Federal Register** on June 15, 2001 (66 FR 32635). The comment period closed on July 15, 2001. On July 20, 2001, and July 23, 2001, the applicants submitted additional information in support of their applications. The reopening of the comment period will allow all interested parties to review the new information and provide the Service with any additional comments regarding these applications. In reopening this comment period the Service further notifies the public that current information indicates the proposed activities, if authorized, qualify as categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act as described in **Federal Register**, vol. 62, No. 11, 1/16/97, and Departmental Manual 516 DM 6 Appendix 1, Section 1.4 C. Therefore, the Service does not anticipate holding a public hearing regarding these proposed activities.

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.

Written data, comments, or requests, 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 data, comments,

or requests must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: August 3, 2001.

**Monica Farris,**

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 01-20382 Filed 8-13-01; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Notice of Issuance of Permit for Marine Mammals**

On May 7, 2001, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 66, No. 88, Page No. 23044), that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by William Bricker for a permit (PRT-042025) to import one polar bear taken from the Lancaster Sound population, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on July 11, 2001, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On May 22, 2001, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 66, No. 99, Page No. 28196), that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by William Carvajal for a permit (PRT-042636) to import one polar bear taken from the Lancaster Sound population, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on July 20, 2001, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et*

*seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On May 22, 2001, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 66, No. 99, Page No. 28195), that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by John Link for a permit (PRT-042520) to import one polar bear taken from the Lancaster Sound population, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on July 20, 2001, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On June 6, 2001, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 66, No. 109, Page No. 30476), that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Jay Earl Link for a permit (PRT-042006) to import one polar bear taken from the Lancaster Sound population, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on July 20, 2001, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On June 27, 2001, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 66, No. 124, Page No. 34232), that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Ronald J. Jameson, USGS, Biological Resources Division, for an amendment to his permit (PRT-777239) to allow take of sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) for the purpose of scientific research.

Notice is hereby given that on July 26, 2001, as authorized by the provisions of

the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit amendment subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

Documents and other information submitted for these applications are available for review by any party who submits a written request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone (703) 358-2104 or fax (703) 358-2281.

Dated: August 3, 2001.

**Monica Farris,**

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 01-20383 Filed 8-13-01; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Letters of Authorization To Take Marine Mammals**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of Letters of Authorization to take marine mammals incidental to oil and gas industry activities.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implementing regulations [50 CFR 18.27(f)(3)], notice is hereby given that a Letter of Authorization to take polar bears incidental to oil and gas industry exploration activities has been issued to the following company:

Company	Activity	Location	Date issued
Alaska Gas Producers Pipeline Team .....	Exploration .....	Prudhoe Bay to Canadian Border .....	June 20, 2001.

**CONTACT:** Mr. John W. Bridges at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3810.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Letter of Authorization is issued in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Rules and Regulations "Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities (65 FR 16828; March 30, 2000)."

Dated: July 9, 2001.

**David B. Allen,**

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 01-20397 Filed 8-13-01; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Risk Assessment and Management Committee Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Risk Assessment and Management Committee of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The