

the capture, handling, and releasing of shortnose sturgeon. Handling entails genetic sample collection and external tagging. Modification 13 would increase the authorized magnitude of take for the purpose of implanting internal sonic transmitters in 30 adult sturgeon per year for 2 years.

Dated: October 10, 2001.

Phil Williams,

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100301A]

Marine Mammals, File No. 756-1630

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dan Tapster, BBC Natural History Unit, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS8 2LR, United Kingdom, has been issued a permit to take by Level B harassment one species, bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), of marine mammals for purposes of commercial/educational photography.

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

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

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5320.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynne Barre or Jill Lewandowski, (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 6, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 65687) that the above-named applicant had submitted a request for a permit to take one species of marine mammals by Level B harassment during the course of commercial photographic activities in Hilton Head, South Carolina. The requested permit has been issued, under the authority of §104(c)(6) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*).

Dated: October 5, 2001.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100501A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 655-1652-00

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Scott D. Kraus, Ph.D., Edgerton Research Laboratory, New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110-3309, has applied in due form for a permit to take North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before November 15, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 713-0376;

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978) 281-9200; fax (978) 281-9371; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727) 570-5301; fax (727) 570-5320.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Tammy Adams (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 part 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 222-226).

The applicant proposes to take up to 350 right whales in the Northern

Atlantic population annually for a 5-year period. Taking will involve photo-identification, biopsy darting, ultrasound measurements, suction-cup tagging, acoustic playbacks and radio tagging of live whales, biological and pathological sample collection from dead whales. The objectives are: to monitor the health and status of the population by annually documenting as many individuals as possible, identifying skin and body condition, documenting anthropogenic scarring, identifying calf production, tracking calving intervals and birth rates of individual females, identifying sex, age, and genetic patterns in movement, behavior, and habitat use, documenting rates and causes of mortality, examining hormone and stress levels, and examining behavior and association data for trends over time; and to minimize the effects of human activities on the survival of right whales by developing "whale-safe" fishing gear and methods, reducing the impacts of shipping activities on right whales, and by testing hypotheses on the potential links between contaminants, biotoxins, food supply, nutrition, global warming, acoustic disturbance, and habitat loss, and the decline in reproduction of right whales.

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.