

acquired from Native hunters for bearded and spotted seals.

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.

Dated: November 13, 2001.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 01-28879 Filed 11-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110501G]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (No. 1012-1647-00)

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

ACTION: Issuance of Permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Robert B. Griffin, Mote Marine Laboratory, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34236, has been issued a permit to take Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) and bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) for purposes of scientific research.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Trevor Spradlin or Lynne Barre, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 6, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 41005) that a request for a scientific research permit had been submitted by the above-named individual to take Atlantic spotted dolphins and bottlenose dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico over a five year period during the conduct of photo-identification, biopsy sampling and suction cup tagging activities. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Dated: November 13, 2001.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 01-28881 Filed 11-16-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Technology Opportunities Program Reviewer Information Form

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as a part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 18, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental

Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet mclayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Clifton Beck, NTIA, Room H-4888, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Abstract

The Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) promotes the widespread availability and use of digital network technologies in the public and non-profit sectors. To accomplish this objective, TOP provides matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and non-profit entities for model projects that demonstrate innovative uses of digital network technologies in underserved communities. TOP projects address specific challenges and realize opportunities for change in such areas as lifelong learning, community and economic development, government and public services, safety, health, culture, and the arts.

Since 1994, TOP has made matching grants to state, local and tribal governments, health care providers, schools, libraries, police departments, and community-based non-profit organizations. To date, TOP has awarded 530 grants, in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, totaling \$192.5 million and leveraging \$268 million in local matching funds.

As part of TOP's process to select projects for funding, external experts are used to review applications. Collection of information about potential reviewers is used to determine their eligibility and availability and to facilitate payment for services rendered if they are selected to review.

Currently, TOP is exploring options to redesign the processes for becoming a reviewer of grant applications. The goals of the redesign process are to improve the ease for registering to become a reviewer and reduce the cost (to the agency) of the identification, selection, and notification of an individual's review status. To accomplish these goals, TOP proposes to offer both an Internet-based and a paper-based form for the submission of reviewer information.

II. Method of Collection

Electronic and paper form.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0660–0010.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: State and local government, not-for-profit institutions, and business and for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

130.

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 42.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: 0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the program, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection; they also become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 13, 2001.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 01–28793 Filed 11–16–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–60–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Telecommunications and Information Administration**

[Docket No. 011109273–1273–01]

RIN 0660–XX13

Notice, Request for Comments on Deployment of Broadband Networks and Advanced Telecommunications

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request For Comments on Deployment of Broadband Networks and Advanced Telecommunications Services.

SUMMARY: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) invites interested parties to comment on

broadband deployment in the United States. NTIA invites the public to submit comments on several issues including: supply and demand for broadband services; and the technical, economic, or regulatory barriers to broadband deployment. Comments should be submitted on paper and, where possible, in electronic form as well. All comments submitted in response to this Notice will be posted on the NTIA Web site.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit comments no later than December 14, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Josephine Scarlett, Office of the Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Room 4713 HCHB, 1401 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20230. Parties should submit an original and five (5) copies. Where possible, parties should include a diskette in ASCII, WordPerfect (please specify version) or Microsoft Word (please specify version) format. Diskettes should be labeled with the name and organizational affiliation of the filer, and the name version of the word processing program used to create the document. In the alternative to a diskette, comments may be submitted electronically to the following electronic mail address: broadband@ntia.doc.gov. Comments submitted via electronic mail also should be submitted in one or more of the formats specified above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Josephine Scarlett, Office of the Chief Counsel, telephone: (202) 482–1816. Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, at (202) 482–7002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

NTIA is the executive branch agency responsible for developing and articulating domestic and international telecommunications policy. NTIA is the principal advisor to the President on telecommunications policies pertaining to the Nation's economic and technological advancement and to the regulation of the telecommunications industry.

On October 12, 2001, NTIA held informal discussions with the public and telecommunications companies to gather information about the status of broadband deployment in the United States. The participants discussed cable open access, broadband deployment in underserved rural areas, demand and supply for advanced services, technical and economic roadblocks to broadband

deployment, and regulatory methods for stimulating supply and demand.

The request for comment is a part of NTIA's ongoing effort to obtain more information about broadband issues. Information submitted in response to this Notice will be used to assist the Administration in developing a domestic telecommunications policy and to continue NTIA's support for removing obstacles to broadband deployment.

NTIA seeks comment on the following specific questions. Parties are requested to respond to the questions about which they have particular knowledge or information.

II. Questions

A. What should be the primary policy considerations in formulating broadband policy for the country? Please discuss the relative importance of the following: access for all; facilities-based competition; minimal regulation; technological neutrality; intra-modal competition; inter-modal competition; and any other policy consideration.

B. How should broadband services be defined? Please discuss (1) what criteria should be used to determine whether a facility or service has sufficient transmission capacity to be classified as "broadband;" (2) how the definition should evolve over time; and (3) the policy implications of how the term is defined.

C. Several studies indicate that the rate of deployment of broadband services is equal to or greater than the deployment rates for other technologies. What is the current status of (1) supply and (2) demand of broadband services in the United States? When addressing supply, please discuss current deployment rates and any regulatory policies impeding supply. When addressing demand, please discuss both actual take rates and any evidence of unserved demand. Please also address potential underlying causes of low subscribership rates, such as current economic conditions, price, cost-structure, impediments to the development of broadband content, or any other factor. To what extent has the growth in competition for broadband and other services been slowed by the existing rates and rate structures for regulated telecommunications services?

D. Should government adopt as a goal "access for all" to broadband service? What would be the costs of such a goal? What policy initiatives, if any, should be considered to achieve that goal? Are there areas or persons that are unlikely to be served through marketplace forces?