

NPFMC Ecosystem Committee, review public comments, and consider process for selecting a Preferred Alternative.

9. Groundfish Management:

(a) Final Review of Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) documents for BSAI and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish fisheries for 2002.

(b) Set Total Allowable Catch and bycatch levels for BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries for 2002.

(c) Receive report on Halibut Excluder Device research; provide comment or staff direction as appropriate.

(d) Review tasking and problem statement for differential gear impact analysis for Pacific cod.

(e) Discuss tasking an independent review of the Council's F40 harvest strategy.

(f) Review discussion paper on catch and bycatch disclosure (if material is available); provide staff direction as appropriate.

(g) Review discussion paper on bycatch implications of Steller sea lion measures for 2002 (if data available).

10. Staff Tasking:

(a) Review existing tasking and provide direction as necessary.

(b) Receive status report on agency initiative to collect socio-economic data.

Scientific and Statistical Committee: The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

a. Seabird Avoidance Measures (Item #3 on the Council agenda)

b. BSAI Crab Rationalization (Item #4 on the Council agenda)

c. Halibut/Sablefish IFQ issues (Item #6 on the Council agenda)

d. Essential Fish Habitat (Item #7 on the Council agenda)

e. Groundfish SEIS (Item 18 on the Council agenda)

f. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska SAFE documents (Item 19(a) on the Council agenda)

g. Independent review of the Council's F40 harvest strategy (Item 19 (e) on the Council agenda)

Advisory Panel: The Advisory Panel will address the same agenda issues as the Council, with the exception of the Reports under Item 1 of the Council agenda.

IFQ Implementation/Cost Recovery Committee: The committee will address the following issues:

1. Review NMFS's estimated IFQ fee and budget costs for 2002.

2. Review enforcement issues (prior notice of landing; offload "window"; shipment report; and vessel clearance).

Other impromptu workgroup or committee meetings may be scheduled during the meeting week; such meetings will be announced in the various meetings and posted in the hotel.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305 (c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the NPFMC's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 14, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110801A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 481-1623-00

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that LGL Limited, Environmental Research Associates, 22 Fisher Street, POB 280, King City, Ontario, Canada L7B 1A6 (Principal Investigator: Dr. John W. Lawson) has applied in due form for a permit to take ringed seals (*Phoca hispida*) and incidentally take bearded seals (*Erignathus barbatus*) and spotted seals (*Phoca largha*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before December 19, 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; and

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Amy Sloan (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.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant has requested a permit to take ringed seals and incidentally take bearded and spotted seals annually. Researchers will use trained dogs within the fast ice distant from and near to industrial activities during winter to locate seals. LGL proposes to:

(a) take 150 seals by harassment during on-ice searches for breathing holes and resting lairs, and during setup and recovery of the VHF receiver stations, 20 ringed seals will be captured and tagged with VHF transmitters and implant PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags;

(b) take up to 5 accidental mortalities, over a 5-year period;

(c) take an unlimited number of seals during four aerial survey transects, each survey requiring two days. Two days of surveys constitutes one of four complete survey coverages of the study area. These surveys had been conducted under Letter of Confirmation No. 481-1626 issued under authority of the General Authorization for Scientific Research. That authorization will be incorporated into the scientific research permit, if issued;

(d) conduct acoustic characterization of on-ice anthropogenic sounds by employing calibrated hydrophones, microphones and geophones in holes drilled through the ice near an intended path of a vibroseis seismic survey convoy or some other noisy anthropogenic activities and make acoustic recordings as the operation moves past. To characterize received levels for ringed seals, seal lairs will be instrumented with these acoustic recording instruments to measure the characteristics of man-made sounds in a natural seal structure and to obtain concurrent acoustic and behavioral data from the same lair by deploying telemetry devices within the lair (i.e., recording thermistors);

(e) conduct genetic and contaminant studies of ringed seals using teeth and tissue samples acquired from Native hunters during subsistence harvests. Teeth and tissue samples for contaminant studies will also be

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]

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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.