

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Gregory D. Bossart, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc., 5600 U.S. 1 North, Fort Pierce, FL 34946, has applied in due form for a permit to take bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before August 26, 2002.

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

Permits, Conservation and Education 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

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: Trevor Spradlin or Lynne Barre, (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 proposes to conduct a health assessment of bottlenose dolphins in the Indian River Lagoon, FL and the waters near Charleston, SC that would include the capture, examination, sampling, tagging and release of up to 400 animals (200 at each site) over a 5 year period. Dolphins of all age and sex classes would be captured except female-calf pairs containing calves presumed to be less than one year of age. Some individual dolphins may be harassed more than once per day but not more than three times per day. In addition, some individual dolphins may be captured more than once during the 5-year period, but not more than three times in any given year. The applicant also proposes to incidentally harass a maximum of 1,500 additional dolphins per site (FL and SC) during the process of locating individuals for health assessment examinations.

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, Conservation and Education 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: July 18, 2002.

Eugene T. Nitta,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. 02-18860 Filed 7-24-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071202C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 782-1438

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, NMFS, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, (Dr. Sue Moore, Principal Investigator (PI)) has been issued a minor amendment to scientific research Permit No. 782-1438.

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

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

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach,

CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426; and

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Permit No. 782-1438, issued on issued on May 8, 1998 (63 FR 27265) authorizes the National Marine Mammal Laboratory to take various large and small cetacean species through photographic aerial surveys (Project I); biopsy sampling, tagging and photo-identification (Project II); small cetacean species and pinnipeds through vessel surveys (Project III); gray whales through biopsy sampling, tagging, photo-id and harassment (Project IV); and beluga whales by satellite-tagging, flipper tagging, VHF radio/time depth recorder(TDR) suction cup-tagging and biopsy sampling (Project V). The amendment extends the expiration date of the permit. For Projects I, II, and III, the expiration date has been extended to September 30, 2003. For Project IV, the expiration date has been extended to June 30, 2003.

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 19, 2002.

Eugene T. Nitta,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. 02-18863 Filed 7-24-02; 8:45 am]

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