

recovery efforts. Measures to manage hatchery adult returns include collection at specific sites for transplantation into landlocked lakes and limited harvest.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the applications, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. If it is determined that the requirements are met, permits will be issued to WDFW and USFWS for the steelhead enhancement programs in the Upper Columbia River. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: July 26, 2002.

Phil Williams,

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

[FR Doc. 02-19431 Filed 7-31-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 062502C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 881-1443

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 Alaska SeaLife Center, P.O. Box 1329, Seward, AK 99664 has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 881-1443.

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 13730, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Amy Sloan, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 19, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 48663) that an amendment of Permit No. 881-1443, issued March 27, 1998

(63 FR 14905), had been requested by the above-named organization. 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 provisions of § 216.39 of 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 provisions of § 222.25 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

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.

The amendment authorizes modifications to existing research protocols as well as new research projects. Modifications to existing protocols include: (1) increasing frequency of blubber biopsies taken from Steller sea lions from 3 to 6 times per year for fatty acid and organochlorine testing; (2) increasing mass of blubber biopsies taken from harbor seals from 50 to 500 mg for organochlorine testing; (3) collecting saliva from Steller sea lions and harbor seals for deuterium, steroid, and hormone analyses; (4) analyzing vaginal and preputial swabs for cell cytology in Steller sea lions and harbor seals; and (5) administering stable isotopes to Steller sea lions for nutritional studies.

New projects include: (1) hormone stimulation studies and collection of feces for assessment of stress or well-being in relation to diet in Steller sea lions; (2) bioenergetic studies of Steller sea lions involving determination of metabolic rates using flow respirometry and metabolic chambers, and dietary marker administration and dry holding for collection of urine and feces; (3) collection of skin and mucosal swabs from harbor seals and Steller sea lions for development of cell lines and microbiological analyses; (4) administration of deuterium labeled vitamin E and a vitamin A analog and increased frequency of blood sampling to determine metabolic requirements of these vitamins; and (5) photographic studies to determine pelage pattern consistency of harbor seals.

Dated: July 25, 2002.

Eugene T. Nitta,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service
[FR Doc. 02-19430 Filed 7-31-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 2002-P-004]

Grant of Interim Extension of the Term of U.S. Patent No. 4,229,449; Roboxetine Mesylate

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of interim patent term extension.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office has issued a certificate under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) for a fourth one-year interim extension of the term of U.S. Patent No. 4,229,449.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karin Ferriter by telephone at (703) 306-3159; by mail marked to her attention and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Ext., Washington, DC, 20231; by fax marked to her attention at (703) 872-9411, or by e-mail to Karin.Ferriter@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 156 of Title 35, United States Code, generally provides that the term of a patent may be extended for a period of up to five years if the patent claims a product, or a method of making or using a product, that has been subject to certain defined regulatory review, and that the patent may be extended for interim periods of up to a year if the regulatory review is anticipated to extend beyond the expiration date of the patent.

On November 20, 2001, patent owner Pharmacia & Upjohn, S.p.A., timely filed an application under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) for a third subsequent interim extension of the term of U.S. Patent No. 4,229,449. The patent claims the active ingredient roboxetine mesylate (Vestra(TM)). The application indicates that a New Drug Application for the human drug product roboxetine mesylate (Vestra(TM)) has been filed and is currently undergoing regulatory review before the Food and Drug Administration for permission to market or use the product commercially.

Review of the application indicates that except for permission to market or use the product commercially, the

subject patent would be eligible for an extension of the patent term under 35 U.S.C. 156, and that the patent should be extended for an additional year as required by 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5)(B). Since it is apparent that the regulatory review period has continued beyond the extended expiration date of the patent (January 9, 2002), the term of the patent is extended under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) for an additional term of one year, *i.e.*, until January 9, 2003.

Dated: July 24, 2002.

James E. Rogan,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 02-19453 Filed 7-31-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Public Hearings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Clean Air Act Conformity Determination for Introduction of F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet Aircraft to the East Coast of the United States

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Announcement of public hearing.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and the Clean Air Act, General Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93), the Department of the Navy (Navy) has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Clean Air Act (CAA) Conformity Determination to evaluate the introduction of F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet aircraft to the east coast of the United States. In accordance with these laws and regulations, this notice announces the dates and locations of public hearings.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: An open information session will precede the scheduled public hearing at each of the locations listed below and will allow individuals to review the data presented in the DEIS. Navy representatives will be available during the information session to clarify information related to the DEIS. Unless noted, the open information session of the hearing is scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., followed by the public hearing from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Public hearings have

been scheduled at the following dates, locations, and times:

- Tuesday, August 20, 2002, Tucker Creek Middle School, 200 Sermons Blvd, Havelock, NC.
- Wednesday, August 21, 2002, Craven Community College, Orringer Hall, 800 College Court, New Bern, NC.
- Thursday, August 22, 2002, Pamlico County Primary School, 323 Neal Creek Rd, Bayboro, NC.
- Monday, August 26, 2002, North Carolina Aquarium and Marine Center, Airport Rd, Manteo, NC. (information session begins at 5:30 p.m.)
- Tuesday, August 27, 2002, Mattamuskeet School, 60 Juniper Bay Rd, Swan Quarter, NC.
- Wednesday, August 28, 2002, Bertie High School, 715 US 13 North, Windsor, NC.
- Thursday, August 29, 2002, Vernon G. James Center, 207 Research Station Rd, Plymouth, NC.
- Tuesday, September 3, 2002, Perquimans County High School, 305 Edenton Road St, Hertford, NC.
- Wednesday, September 4, 2002, Pavilion Convention Center, 1000 19th St, VA Beach, VA.
- Thursday, September 5, 2002, Great Bridge High School, 301 W. Hanbury Rd, Chesapeake, VA.
- Tuesday, September 10, 2002, Battery Creek High School, 1 Blue Dolphin Dr, Beaufort, SC.
- Wednesday, September 11, 2002, Eulonia Community Senior Center, GA. Highway 57, Eulonia, GA.
- Thursday, September 12, 2002, Burke County Office Park Auditorium, 715 W. 6th St, Waynesboro, GA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Fred Pierson, NEPA Section, Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Norfolk, (757) 322-4935; Mr. Ray Firenze, Community Planning Liaison Office, Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana, (757) 433-3158; Ms. Pam Breuer, Community Planning Liaison Office, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, (252) 466-4196; or LtCol St. George, Executive Officer, MCAS Beaufort, (843) 228-7158, Ext. 7305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is to provide facilities and functions to support the homebasing and operation of 10 Super Hornet fleet squadrons (130 aircraft) and one Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) (32 aircraft) to replace the F-14 Tomcat (150 aircraft) and earlier model F/A-18 C/D Hornet (37 aircraft). The introduction of the Super Hornet would meet the need of Naval aviation for upgraded aircraft with increased range

and endurance, the ability to carry heavier payloads, features that enhance survivability, and the flexibility to incorporate future systems and technologies to meet emerging threats. The Navy is lead agency for the proposed action with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Department of the Air Force (Air Force) serving as cooperating agencies.

The DEIS considers eight homebasing alternatives and identifies two of those as preferred alternatives. East coast installations that meet operational criteria and are considered as possible receiving homebase sites for the F/A-18 E/F aircraft include NAS Oceana, VA; MCAS Beaufort, SC; and MCAS Cherry Point, NC. One preferred alternative would homebase six Super Hornet fleet squadrons and the FRS at NAS Oceana and four Super Hornet fleet squadrons at MCAS Cherry Point, and also construct a new Outlying Landing Field (OLF) between the two sites. The other preferred alternative would homebase eight Super Hornet squadrons and the FRS at NAS Oceana and two fleet squadrons at MCAS Cherry Point, and also construct a new OLF between the two sites. Both alternatives would homebase the majority of fleet squadrons at NAS Oceana, optimizing readiness and efficiency of operations through economies of scale in support, training and personnel requirements. These alternatives provide opportunities for mitigating noise, population encroachment, and air quality issues at NAS Oceana. The construction of an OLF provides the opportunity to further mitigate projected impacts of Super Hornet homebasing. The DEIS identifies six sites as potential locations for an OLF in the following counties:

—Perquimans County, NC. (approximately 5.5 miles north of Winfall, NC.); Bertie County, NC. (approximately 7 miles northeast of Windsor, NC.); Washington County, NC. (approximately 9 miles southeast of Plymouth, NC.); Craven County, NC. (approximately 5 miles east of Vanceboro, NC.); Hyde County, NC. (approximately 4 miles northwest of Engelhard, NC.); and Burke County, GA. (approximately 4 miles north of Sardis, GA.). The preferred OLF locations, under either homebasing alternative, are Site C in Washington County, NC. and Site E in Craven County, NC.. Each homebase and OLF alternative is assessed in the DEIS with regard to its effects on the natural and built environments.

The DEIS has been distributed to various Federal, state and local agencies, as well as other interested