

endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

The permit holder hypothesizes that the recovery of shortnose sturgeon on the Hudson River occurred due to one or several strong year-classes following nursery system recovery to normoxia after 1977. The permit holder is going to test this hypothesis by determining the ages of shortnose sturgeon caught in the Hudson river by interpreting annulus of pectoral fin spines. The method will be tested on 10 captive shortnose sturgeon from seven age classes (70 total) from US Fish and Wildlife Service Warm Springs Fish Hatchery, Georgia. The applicant will clip a 1cm section from the primary spine of one pectoral fin near the point of articulation. After this has been tested in hatchery fish, the permit holder will capture shortnose sturgeon in the Hudson River with gillnets, handle, measure, check for tags, tag, passive integrated transponder tag, sex (by external or fiberoptic examination), and release. The applicant is authorized to take 670 shortnose sturgeon.

Issuance of this permit, 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: October 3, 2002.

**Trevor Spradlin,**

*Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 02–25715 Filed 10–9–02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 100302B]

**Marine Mammals; File No. 859–1680**

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Jim Johnston, Chief Environmental Planner, United States Air Force, Environmental Management Office, Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA 93437, has applied in due form for a permit to take California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*), northern fur

seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*), and Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before November 12, 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

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213; phone (562)980–4001; fax (562)980–4018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Tammy Adams 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.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant requests a 5 year permit to take up to 700 California sea lions, 700 northern elephant seals, 50 northern fur seals, and 550 harbor seals inhabiting Vandenberg Air Force Base and the northern Channel Islands annually by capture, sedation, blood sampling, skin biopsy, physiological measurements, hearing sensitivity tests, attachment of scientific instruments, temporary captive maintenance, recapture for retrieval of instruments, surveys of abundance and distribution, incidental harassment, and accidental mortality. The purpose of the proposed project is to study the effects of noise from rocket launches and the subsequent launch-generated sonic booms on pinnipeds. The movements and foraging behavior of seals exposed to launch noise and/or sonic booms will be compared with non-exposed control animals using remote VHF radio-telemetry, satellite transmitters, and electronic data loggers.

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: October 3, 2002.

**Trevor R. Spradlin,**

*Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 02–25711 Filed 10–9–02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 100102C]

**Marine Mammals; File Nos. 782–1694 and 782–1438**

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of applications for permit and request to amend permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS, National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML), 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, WA 98102, has applied in due form for: (1) a permit to take an unspecified number of specimen materials from dead animals of the Orders Cetacea and Pinnipedia (except walrus) for purposes of scientific research; and (2) an amendment to permit 782–1438.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before November 12, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment (See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ruth Johnson or Jennifer Skidmore, (301)713–2289.