

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Dan Waldeck, Pacific Fishery Management Council, (503) 820-2280.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 29, 2002, the Council adopted the fishery management plan (FMP) for West Coast highly migratory species (HMS). The primary purpose of this HMPSPDT work session is to incorporate Council guidance, perform editorial work, and prepare the FMP for submission to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

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

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 13, 2002.

**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

#### United States Climate Change Science Program

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**ACTION:** Notice of open workshop.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Global Change Research Act of 1990 initiated the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) that continues today as a major sponsor of global change research. In June 2001 President George W. Bush directed the USGCRP agencies to develop a focused Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI) with the goal of accelerating the USGCRP research activities in the next 2 to 5 years to assist in the development of public

policy and natural resource management tools related to climate change issues. The U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), incorporating the USGCRP and the CCRI, will hold a comprehensive workshop to receive participants' individual comments on a discussion draft version of its Strategic Plan for climate change and global change studies. When finalized, the draft strategic Plan reviewed during and after the Workshop will provide the principal guidance for the U.S. global change and climate change research programs during the next several years, subject to revisions as appropriate to respond to newly developed information and decision support tools.

**TIME AND DATE:** The workshop will be held Tuesday, December 3, 2002, from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 4, 2002, from 8:30 am-5:30 p.m., and Thursday, December 5, 2002, from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. *These times may be subject to change. Refer to the Web site listed below for a final meeting agenda.*

**PLACE:** The workshop will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road, NW., in Washington, DC.

**STATUS:** The meeting will be open to registered participants. The public may register at the Web site below or by sending a fax to 303-497-8633 with the following information: (1) Prefix: (Dr., Mr., Ms., other); (2) first name/given name; (3) middle initial; (4) last name/surname; (5) name as you want it printed on your name badge; (6) organization/institution; (7) department, division or program; (8) street address; (9) city; (10) state/province (if applicable); (11) ZIP or postal code; (12) country; (13) telephone number; (14) fax number; and (15) email address. *Limited registration may be available at the Workshop, but cannot be guaranteed due to space consideration.* The Workshop will include daily plenary sessions and several breakout sessions. Each breakout session will include invited reviewer comments as well as the opportunity for general attendee comments. All comments must be submitted by individual participants. Group consensus comments will not be accepted. The discussion draft of the Strategic Plan and directions for submitting comments has been posted on the Web site below. Comments, questions and suggestions are welcomed from both scientific and stakeholder communities during and after the Workshop. Comments on the Strategic Plan can be submitted up to January 13, 2003.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** To assure the continued scientific credibility of the CCSP, the Workshop will provide a comprehensive review of the discussion draft of the Strategic Plan.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Sandy MacCracken, U.S. Climate Change Science Program, Suite 250, 1717 Pennsylvania Ave, NW., Washington, DC 20006. (Phone: 202-223-6262, Fax: 202-223-3065, e-mail: [smaccrac@usgcrp.gov](mailto:smaccrac@usgcrp.gov)); or visit the CCSP Web site at <http://www.climate-science.gov>.

**James R. Mahoney,**

*Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and Director, U.S. Climate Change Science Program.*

[FR Doc. 02-29317 Filed 11-18-02; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 103102C]

**Marine Mammals; File Nos. 358-1564, 782-1532, 1016-1651, 800-1664, 434-1669, 1010-1641, and 881-1668**

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permits and permit amendments.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the following individuals/organizations have been issued a permit or permit amendment to take Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) for the purposes of scientific research: Dr. Glenn VanBlaricom, Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195; Dr. Randall Davis, Department of Marine Biology, Texas A M University, Galveston, TX 77551; the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Corvallis, Oregon 97330 (PI: Robin Brown); the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC), Seward, Alaska 99664 (PI: Don Calkins); the National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML), National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (PI: Dr. Thomas Loughlin); the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526 (PI: Dr. Thomas Gelatt).

**ADDRESSES:** The permits, permit amendments, and related documents, are available for review upon written request, by downloading from the

internet, or by appointment in the following office(s):

All documents: Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301)713-2289, or the Division's Web Page at [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/PR1/Permits/pr1permits\\_review.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR1/Permits/pr1permits_review.html).

For permit 782-1532 (NMML) and Files No. 1016-1651 (Univ. of Washington) and 434-1669 (ODFW): Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700, (206)526-6150; and

For permits 782-1532 (NMML), 358-1564-02 (ADFG) and Files No. 1016-1651 (Univ. of Washington), 800-1664 (Davis), and 881-1668 (ASLC): Alaska Region, NMFS, PO Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, (907)586-7221.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 27, 2002, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (67 FR 43283) that requests for scientific research permits and permit amendments to take Steller sea lions had been submitted by the above-named individuals/organizations. The requested permits and permit amendments have been issued 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 parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Permit No. 358-1564-02, which expires on June 30, 2005, authorized the permit holder to take Steller sea lions of all ages and both sexes in Alaska and British Columbia by aerial/boat surveys, capturing, handling, flipper tagging, blood/biopsy sampling, hot-branding, collection of blood and tissue samples, attachment of scientific instruments, recaptures, and accidental mortality. The amended permit authorizes takes of additional sea lions by increased frequency of aerial surveys, and additional takes of individual sea lions by additional recaptures, increased blood and tissue sampling, tagging, administering Evans blue dye, and additional accidental mortality.

Permit No. 782-1532, which expires on December 31, 2004, authorizes the permit holder to take Steller sea lions of

all ages and both sexes in Alaska, by aerial/boat surveys, capturing, handling, flipper tagging, blood/biopsy sampling, attachment of scientific instruments, and hot-branding. The amended permit increase the frequency of takes by aerial surveys; includes Southeast Alaska in monthly surveys; increases the number of animals to be incidentally harassed during scat collection; and allows additional procedures for animals already authorized for capture, including using gas anesthesia, branding of any animal captured, injecting Evan's blue dye and deuterated water, collecting additional blood and tissue samples, using bioelectric impedance analysis, and an increase in the number of accidental mortalities.

Permit No. 800-1664 authorizes takes of threatened and endangered juvenile and adult female Steller sea lions in Alaska by capture, anesthesia, hot-branding, tissue sampling (including blood, skin, and blubber), attachment of scientific instruments (video system/data logger and satellite transmitters), and accidental mortality.

Permit No. 1016-1641 authorizes takes of threatened and endangered Steller sea lions in the Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska, and southeast Alaska by remote biopsy darting, incidental harassment, and accidental mortality, to collect blubber samples for analysis to assess prey selection. Some samples will be exported to Canada for analysis. Northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) and harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*) may be incidentally harassed during biopsy sampling.

Permit No. 434-1669 authorizes takes of threatened Steller sea lions in California, Washington, and Oregon by capture, hot-branding, flipper tagging, collection of blood and tissue samples from, attachment external scientific instruments to, harassment incidental to these activities and remote monitoring, and accidental mortality.

Permit No. 881-1668, issued to the Alaska SeaLife Center, authorizes takes of threatened and endangered Steller sea lions in Alaska by capture, hot-branding, flipper tagging, collection of blood and tissue samples from, attachment of external scientific instruments, accidental mortality, and harassment incidental to these activities and remote monitoring.

Permit No. 1010-1641 authorizes takes of Steller sea lions of all ages by harassment during aerial surveys and vessel-based behavioral observations in the western Gulf of Alaska, and scat collection at rookeries and haulouts along the Alaska Peninsula and Eastern Aleutian Islands.

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

Dated: November 12, 2002.

**Eugene T. Nitta,**

*Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 1101021]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 821-1588

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application for amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Texas A&M University, Department of Marine Biology, PO Box 1675, Galveston, Texas 77551 (Principal Investigator: Dr. Randall W. Davis) has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 821-1588-01.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before December 19, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment request 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;

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5320; and

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

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted 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