

later than the closing date of the comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The amendment and application are requested 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 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

Permit No. 821-1588-02 (R. Davis) authorizes the permit holder to conduct research under four projects: 1) capture, tag, sample, release Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddelli*) on McMurdo Sound, Antarctica; 2) approach, tag, biopsy, photograph sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) in the Gulf of Mexico, and conduct research activities on Odontocetes that may result in Level B harassment; 3) import/export marine mammal specimens obtained from dead animals; and 4) Project IV - Hunting Behavior and Energetics of Free-Ranging Elephant Seals. The permit holder now requests authorization to amend Project II to increase the number of sperm whales to be taken by harassment during photo-identification and behavioral observations to 530 animals. Currently 100 sperm whales may be incidentally harassed during tagging and biopsy sampling of 60 animals.

Danied Engelhauff (File No. 909-1726) requests a permit to biopsy sample and collect naturally sloughed skin from sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) and a variety of other non-listed cetacean species in the Gulf of Mexico, North Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Mediterranean Sea. The goal is the continuation of a previous four-year study that analyzes population genetic structure between the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, North Atlantic Ocean, and Mediterranean Sea and provides a comparison of these putative geographic populations with those of other geographic areas. The project is part of a multi-year and multi-institution, cross-disciplinary research program to understand the impacts of oil/gas industries and seismic exploration on the endangered sperm whale population in the Gulf of Mexico. Samples would be collected by obtaining skin samples via biopsy dart, sloughed skin sampling,

as well using extant samples of stored material obtained from NMFS Southeast and Northeast regional stranding networks. Samples will be exported to the research facilities at the University of Durham's Biological Sciences Laboratory, New Zealand, or to a similar research facility in the United States for genetic sample processing.

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: January 13, 2004.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 04-1215 Filed 1-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Availability of Progress Report: The Coral Reef Conservation Grants Program

AGENCY: Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announces the availability of *Progress Report: The Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program* (Report). The Report was published in response to the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Act, 16 U.S.C. 6401 *et seq.*, Pub. L. 106-562), which directs NOAA's Administrator to provide a report that documents the effectiveness of its grants program (Program) no later than three years after enactment of the Act.

The Report provides an overview of the Program since its establishment in 2002. It also highlights the achievements of the Program in each of six substantive topic areas, as well as provides specific information on each of the 83 grants awarded in fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the Report please contact the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program by e-mail at coralreef@noaa.gov, by fax at (301) 713-4389, or by mail at 1305 East West Highway, NOS/ORR 10201, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The Report is also available electronically on the NOAA Coral Reef Information System Web site (<http://www.coris.noaa.gov>).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Act, 16 U.S.C. 6401 *et seq.*, Pub. L. 106-562) authorizes the DOC, through the NOAA Administrator and subject to the availability of funds, to make matching grants of Federal financial assistance to support projects for the conservation of coral reefs. The Act also directs NOAA's Administrator to provide a report that documents the effectiveness of its grant program (Program) no later than three years after enactment of the Act. *Progress Report: The Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program* is NOAA's response to this requirement.

This report provides an overview of the Program since its establishment in 2002, including a description of the process and results of the Program's development. It also highlights the achievements of the Program in each of the six topic areas, and provides specific information on each of the 83 grants awarded in fiscal years 2002 and 2003. This includes a State-by-State listing of Federal and non-Federal matching funds, and a detailed description of each activity, its outcomes, and measurements of performance. The report also contains summary tables that organize grant information by geographic and substantive topic area. Finally, the report contains an initial assessment of the effectiveness of the Program.

Dated: January 14, 2004.

Richard W. Spinrad,

Assistant Administrator, Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the "Corporation"), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can