

remainder of the year. The following specific items comprise the draft agenda, (1) complete and/or review rebuilding plans for overfished groundfish stocks, (2) recommend processes and standards for incorporating rebuilding plans into the Pacific Coast Groundfish fishery management plan (FMP), (3) resolve any outstanding catch estimation data issues and evaluate the need for inseason management adjustments, (4) consider recommendations for Exempted Fishing Permit processes and standards, (5) evaluate Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements, (6) consider recommendations for FMP Amendment 17 and multi-year management issues, (7) review the Groundfish Strategic Plan, (8) work on Volume 2 of the 2002 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document, (9) consider a fixed gear sablefish permit stacking recommendation, (10) consider recommendations for 2003 stock assessment priorities and the STAR process, and (11) other miscellaneous Council groundfish issues.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the GMT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal GMT action during this meeting. GMT action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice 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 GMT'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: September 25, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-24949 Filed 9-30-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Availability and Effective Date of the Final Revised Management Plan for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSO), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of Availability and Effective Date of Final Revised Management Plan.

SUMMARY: The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was Congressionally designated by the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Act (HIHWNMSA) on November 4, 1992 (Subtitle C of Public Law 102-587, the Oceans Act of 1992). On Friday, March 28 1997, the final regulations were published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 14799), and became effective on June 2, 1997.

Section 304(e) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act requires that sanctuary management plans be reviewed and potentially revised every five years. At the time of designation NOAA made a commitment to the state of Hawaii that five years after the management plan and regulations became effective, NOAA, in consultation with the State of Hawaii, would evaluate the progress made toward implementing the management plan, regulations, and goals for the Sanctuary. NOAA also agreed that after the evaluation was complete, NOAA would then re-submit the management plan and regulations in their entirety, as far as they affect State waters, to the Governor for his concurrence.

The review process was composed of four major stages: information collection and characterization; preparation and release of a draft revised management plan; public review and comment; and preparation and release of a final revised management plan. A draft revised management plan and draft environmental assessment were made available for public review on March 19, 2002 (67 FR 12525). Seven public meetings were held throughout the State of Hawaii to collect information and comments from individuals, organizations, and government agencies on the scope, types, and significance of issues related the Sanctuary's draft revised management plan. Written

comments were also received throughout the public comment period which ended on May 24, 2002.

A final revised management plan and final environmental assessment were prepared in response to input received from the Sanctuary Advisory Council and comments received during the public review phase. The final revised management plan does not contain any regulatory or boundary changes.

DATES: The final revised management plan was submitted to the Governor of Hawaii on August 2, 2002. The Governor concurred with the final revised management plan on September 6, 2002. This notice confirms the effective date of the new management plan as September 9, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the final revised management plan and its supporting environmental assessment may be obtained by contacting Naomi McIntosh, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, 6700 Kalanianaʻole Highway, Suite 104, Honolulu, HI 96825 or on the Internet at <http://www.hihwnms.nos.noaa.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anne Reisewitz, MPR Coordinator, by phone at (808) 397-2651 or via e-mail at Annelore.Reisewitz@noaa.gov.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. Section 1431 *et seq.* (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: September 25, 2002.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 02-24921 Filed 9-30-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091202C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 981-1578-03

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Peter L. Tyack, Ph.D., Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA 02543 has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 981-1578-02.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tammy Adams or Ruth Johnson,
(301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On October 11, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 51930) that an amendment of Permit No. 981-1578, issued on August 31, 2000 (65 FR 57319), had been requested by the above-named individual. On May 22, 2002, another notice was published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 35965) that an additional amendment of Permit No. 981-1578 was requested by the above named individual. The requested amendments have 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.*).

The amended permit authorizes the holder to: increase the maximum received level for non-airgun sounds to 180 dB re 1 Pa; test a whale-finding sonar's ability to detect gray whales migrating past the central California coast; add tagging of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands; and expand the research area to include the entire North Atlantic Ocean.

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.

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations:

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;

Protected Species Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm. 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808)973-2935; fax (808)973-2941;

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371; and

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

Dated: September 25, 2002.

Eugene T. Nitta,

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

[FR Doc. 02-24947 Filed 9-30-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Telecommunications and Information Administration**

Docket No. 010222048-2217-03

The Domestic and Family Law Documents Exception to the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce

ACTION: Notice, Request For Comments

SUMMARY: Section 101 of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, Pub. L. No. 106-229, *codified at* 15 U.S.C. §§ 7001 *et seq.* ("ESIGN" or "the Act"), preserves the legal effect, validity, and enforceability of signatures and contracts relating to electronic transactions and electronic signatures used in the formation of electronic contracts. 15 U.S.C. § 7001(a). Section 103 (a) and (b) of the Act, however, provides that the provisions of section 101 do not apply to contracts and records governed by statutes and regulations regarding court documents; probate and domestic law matters; certain provisions of state uniform commercial codes; utility service cancellations, real property foreclosures and defaults; insurance benefits cancellations; product recall notices; and documents related to hazardous materials and dangerous substances. 15 U.S.C. §§ 7003(a),(b). Section 103 of the Act also requires the Secretary of Commerce, through the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, to review the operation of these exceptions to evaluate whether they continue to be necessary for consumer protection, and to make recommendations to Congress based on this evaluation. 15 U.S.C. § 7003(c)(1). This Notice is intended to solicit comments from interested parties for purposes of this evaluation, specifically on the domestic and family law documents exception to the ESIGN Act. See 15 U.S.C. § 7003(a)(2). NTIA will publish separate notices requesting

comment on the other exceptions listed in section 103 of the ESIGN Act.¹

DATES: Written comments and papers are requested to be submitted on or before December 2, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to Josephine Scarlett, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 14th Street and Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20230. Paper submissions should include a three and one-half inch computer diskette in HTML, ASCII, Word, or WordPerfect format (please specify version). Diskettes should be labeled with the name and organizational affiliation of the filer, and the name of the word processing program used to create the document. In the alternative, comments may be submitted electronically to the following electronic mail address: esignstudy_fmlw@ntia.doc.gov. Comments submitted via electronic mail also should be submitted in one or more of the formats specified above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about this request for comment, contact: Josephine Scarlett, Attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel, NTIA, 14th Street and Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20230, telephone (202) 482-1816 or electronic mail: jscarlett@ntia.doc.gov. Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Public Affairs, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, at (202) 482-7002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background: Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act**

Congress enacted the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, Pub. L. No. 106-229, 114 Stat. 464 (2000), to facilitate the use of electronic records and signatures in interstate and foreign commerce and to remove uncertainty about the validity of contracts entered into electronically. Section 101 requires, among other things, that electronic signatures, contracts, and records be given legal effect, validity, and enforceability. Sections 103(a) and (b) of the Act provides that the requirements of section 101 shall not apply to contracts and records governed by statutes and regulations regarding: court documents and records; probate and domestic law matters; documents executed under certain provisions of state commercial

¹ Comments submitted in response to **Federal Register** notices requesting comment on the other exceptions to ESIGN will be considered as part of the same section 103 evaluation and not as a separate review of the Act. NTIA is also evaluating the court documents exception to ESIGN.