

animals used in exhibition (such as, but not limited to, elephants, lions, or tigers), and what training and experience levels trainers and handlers of such animals have. This reopening and extension will provide interested groups and individuals with additional time to prepare comments on the request for information.

DATES: Consideration will be given only to comments on Docket No. 97-001-1 that are received on or before November 6, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 97-001-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 97-001-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stephen Smith, Staff Animal Health Technician, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234, (301) 734-7833.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On July 24, 1997, we published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 39802, Docket No. 97-001-1) a notice requesting information concerning the training and handling of potentially dangerous wild and exotic animals used in exhibition in order to obtain a better understanding of the issues pertaining to their welfare.

Comments on the request for information were required to be received on or before September 22, 1997. We received two requests to extend the period during which comments will be accepted. The requests were from an animal welfare organization and an industry association. In response, we are reopening and extending the comment period on Docket No. 97-001-1 for an additional 45 days. This action will allow interested groups and individuals additional time to prepare and submit comments.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2131-2159; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(g).

Done in Washington, DC, this 17th day of September 1997.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-25069 Filed 9-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

DATE AND TIME: Monday, September 22, 1997, 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 624 Ninth Street, N.W., Room 540, Washington, DC 20425.

STATUS: Special Telephonic Meeting (Open)

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Announcements
- III. FY 1998 Budget & Program Planning

CONTACT PERSON FOR FURTHER

INFORMATION: Barbara Brooks, Press and Communications (202) 376-8312.

Stephanie Y. Moore,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 97-25152 Filed 9-17-97; 4:54 p.m.]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 71-97]

Foreign-Trade Zone 149—Freeport, Texas Application for Foreign-Trade Subzone Status Amoco Chemical Company (Petrochemical Complex) Brazoria County, Texas

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Port of Freeport, grantee of FTZ 149, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the petrochemical complex of Amoco Chemical Company (Amoco), a subsidiary of Amoco Corporation, located in Brazoria County, Texas. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on September 9, 1997.

The Amoco petrochemical complex (3,020 acres, 669 employees) consists of two sites in Brazoria County, Texas: *Site 1:* Chocolate Bayou olefins plant (2,334 acres) located on FM 2004 near the city of Alvin, some 50 miles south of Houston, and *Site 2:* Stratton Ridge

storage facility (686 acres, eight tanks/8.5 million-barrel capacity) located at FM 523 near Angleton, some 15 miles southwest of the plant. The olefins plant produces a variety of petrochemical feedstocks and intermediate fuel products, including ethylene (3 billion-lb. capacity), propylene (800 million-lb. capacity), butadiene (200 million-lb. capacity), butene, liquified natural gas, methane, fuel oil, naphtha, and benzene. The petrochemical complex is integrated with the Amoco Oil Company refinery subzone in Texas City, Texas (FTZ 199A, Board Order 731, 60 FR 13118, 3/10/95), which supplies the petrochemical complex with nearly all of its feedstock needs, including foreign-status naphthas, ethane and propane.

Zone procedures would exempt the petrochemical complex from Customs duty payments on the foreign products used in its exports. On domestic sales, the company would be able to choose the Customs duty rates that apply to certain petrochemical feedstocks (duty-free) by admitting incoming foreign inputs (e.g. naphthas, ethane and propane) in non-privileged foreign status. The duty rates on inputs range from duty-free to 10.5¢/barrel. Under the FTZ Act, certain merchandise in FTZ status is exempt from ad valorem inventory-type taxes. The application indicates that the savings from zone procedures would help improve the refinery's international competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is [60 days from date of publication]. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to [75 days from date of publication]).

A copy of the application and accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at each of the following locations:

U.S. Department of Commerce, Export Assistance Center, Suite 1160, 500 Dallas, Houston, Texas 77002.

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 3716, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: September 12, 1997.

John J. Da Ponte, Jr.

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-25106 Filed 9-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091697C]

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Committee Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's (Council) Enforcement Committee will hold a meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on October 1, 1997, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., approximately.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Best Western Hotel Pierre, located at De Diego Ave., Santurce, Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Muñoz Rivera Ave., Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577; telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold an Enforcement Committee meeting to discuss topics related to enforcement of the Queen Conch Fishery Management Plan and the proposed MCD off South of St. John, U.S.V.I.

The meeting is open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding the agenda issues.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Committee for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Committee action during this meeting. Committee action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or requests for sign

language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 16, 1997.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-25040 Filed 9-17-97; 9:19 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091597A]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 836

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment and issuance of amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Daniel P. Costa, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, California 95064, has requested an amendment to Permit No. 836, and an amendment has been issued authorizing the conduct of the proposed research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before October 22, 1997.

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

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001).

Written comments for the record on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

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 other electronic media.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application and amended permit to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to permit no. 836, issued on May 19, 1993 (58 FR 29199) is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*).

Permit no. 836 authorizes the permit holder to, among other things, capture and instrument elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) at Ano Nuevo, CA and release them at sea up to 200 km from Ano Nuevo to study the effects of low frequency sounds under 1,000 Hz (ATOC). The permit holder has requested authorization to expand the research area to enable him to investigate the potential effect of the Navy's Surface Towed Array Surveillance System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) system on the behavior of elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*). The amendment request involves no increase in the number of animals currently authorized to be taken under the Permit. Nor does it involve any changes to the currently authorized experimental protocol.

The permit holder states that the operation of the LFA source will occur only between September 15, 1997 to October 11, 1997, and that a significant research opportunity will be lost if the requested authorization is not provided. Therefore, in light of the time constraints and the unique research opportunity that would otherwise be lost, pursuant to Section 104(c)(3)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and 50 CFR 216.33(e)(6) of the MMPA regulations, we issued an amendment to Permit No. 836 granting the authorization.

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.

Dated: September 11, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 97-25012 Filed 9-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F