

Reporting

Caltrans will provide weekly reports to the Southwest Regional Administrator, NMFS, including a summary of the previous week's monitoring activities and an estimate of the number of harbor seals that may have been disturbed as a result of seismic retrofit construction activities. These reports will provide dates, time, tidal height, maximum number of harbor seals ashore, number of adults and sub-adults, number of females/males, number of redcoats, and any observed disturbances. A description of retrofit activities at the time of observation and any sound pressure level measurements made at the haulout will also be provided.

A draft interim report must be submitted to the Southwest Regional Administrator on August 1, 1998. A draft final report must be submitted to the Southwest Regional Administrator within 90 days after the expiration of Caltrans Incidental Harassment Authorization. A final report must be submitted to the Southwest Regional Administrator within 30 days after receiving comments from the Regional Administrator on the draft final report.

NEPA

NMFS has prepared an EA that concludes that the impacts of Caltrans' seismic retrofit construction of the Bridge will not have a significant impact on the human environment. A copy of the EA is available upon request (see ADDRESSES).

Conclusions

NMFS has determined that the short-term impact of the seismic retrofit construction of the Bridge, as described above, will result, at worst, in the temporary modification in behavior by harbor seals and possibly by some California sea lions. While behavioral modifications, including temporarily vacating the haul-out, may be made by these species to avoid the resultant visual and acoustic disturbance, this action is expected to have a negligible impact on the animals. In addition, no take by injury and/or death is anticipated, and harassment takes will be at the lowest level practicable due to incorporation of the mitigation measures mentioned above.

Since NMFS is assured that the taking will not result in more than the incidental harassment (as defined by the MMPA) of small numbers of Pacific harbor seals and possibly of California sea lions; would not have an unmitigatable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses; and would result in

the least practicable impact on the stocks, NMFS has determined that the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) have been met and the authorization can be issued. For the above reasons, NMFS has issued an IHA for a 1-year period beginning on the date noted above (see EFFECTIVE DATES) for the incidental harassment of harbor seals and California sea lions by the seismic retrofit of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, San Francisco Bay, California, provided the above mentioned monitoring and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: December 16, 1997.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-33387 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121797A]

Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act; Meeting

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

ACTION: Coordination meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will hold a joint meeting to discuss coordination of activities that support Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission coastal fisheries management plans under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Pub. L. 103-206) and the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (Pub. L. 102-103).

DATES: The meeting will convene on Thursday, January 15, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. and will adjourn at approximately 3:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

ADDRESSES: National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anne Lange, Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries, NMFS 8484 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Telephone: (301) 427-2014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS-USFWS hold semi-annual coordination meetings established under a Memorandum of Understanding to develop and implement a program to support interstate fishery management efforts associated with the Atlantic

Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. The main agenda items for this meeting are discussion of the 1996-1997 Workplan; an update on implementation of the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program; status of cooperative coastal/citizen tagging efforts; distribution of FY1998 Atlantic Coastal Act funds; a 1998 striped bass workshop; Striped Bass Act reauthorization; and ASMFC Fishery Management Plan work for 1998.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Lange (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 17, 1997.

Richard Schaefer,

Chief, Staff Office for Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-33473 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121597B]

Permits; Foreign Fishing

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of foreign fishing applications.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes for public review and comment summaries of applications submitted by the Government of Estonia and the Government of Lithuania requesting authorization to conduct fishing operations in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in 1998 under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, International Fisheries Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; and/or to the Regional Fishery Management Councils listed below:

Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906, (617) 231-0422;

David R. Keifer, Executive Director,
Mid-Atlantic Fishery
Management Council, Federal
Building, Room 2115, 300 South New
Street, Dover, DE 19901-6790, (302)
674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Robert A. Dickinson, Office of
Sustainable Fisheries, (301) 713-2337.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In
accordance with a Memorandum of
Understanding with the Secretary of
State, NMFS publishes for public review
and comment summaries of applications
received by the Secretary of State
requesting permits for foreign fishing
vessels to fish in the U.S. EEZ under
provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act
(16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*).

This notice concerns the receipt of an
application from the Government of
Estonia and the receipt of an application
from the Government of Lithuania
requesting authorization to conduct
joint venture (JV) operations in 1998 in
the Northwest Atlantic Ocean for
Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic herring.
The large stern trawler/processors
JACOB HURT and SOELA are identified
as the Estonian vessels that would
receive Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic
herring from U.S. vessels in JV
operations, and the large stern/trawler
processors MAIRONIS and UTENA are
identified as the Lithuanian vessels that
would receive Atlantic mackerel and
Atlantic herring from U.S. vessels in JV
operations.

While both applications also request
authorization for the named vessels to
directly harvest Atlantic mackerel and
Atlantic herring, since no "Total
Allowable Level of Foreign Fishing"
(TALFF) is available for either of these
species, no foreign vessels can be
permitted to directly harvest Atlantic
mackerel or Atlantic herring.

Dated: December 16, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable
Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*
[FR Doc. 97-33386 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120597A]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit No. 473-1433

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that
Ms. Janice M. Straley, P.O. Box 273,
Sitka, Alaska 99835 has been issued a
permit to take humpback whales
(*Megaptera novaeangliae*), killer whales
(*Orcinus orca*), minke whales
(*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), gray
whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), and fin
whales (*B. physalus*) for purposes of
scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related
documents are available for review
upon written request or by appointment
in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected
Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West
Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring,
MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and
Regional Administrator, Alaska
Regional Office, NMFS, NOAA, 709
West 9th Street, Federal Building,
Juneau, Alaska 99802 (907-586-7221).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On
October 31, 1997, notice was published
in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 58943)
that the above-named applicant had
submitted a request for a scientific
research permit to inadvertently harass
humpback whales (*Megaptera
novaeangliae*), during the course of
photo-identification research from
December 1, 1997, to November 30,
2002 in Alaska waters, and to
opportunistically photo-identify killer
whales (*Orcinus orca*), minke whales
(*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), gray
whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), and fin
whales (*B. physalus*) during the course
of the humpback whale studies. The
requested permit has 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 (ESA) of 1973,
as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and
the regulations governing the taking,
importing, and exporting of endangered
fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

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: December 12, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,
*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*
[FR Doc. 97-33437 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121797C]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit No. 875-1401

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 Dr.
Christopher W. Clark, Cornell
University, Ithaca, New York 14850, has
requested an amendment to permit No.
875-1401.

DATES: Written comments must be
received on or before January 22, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The application for
amendment and related documents,
including a draft environmental
assessment (EA) that examines the
environmental consequences of issuing
the requested amended permit, are
available for review upon written
request or by appointment in the
following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected
Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West
Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring,
MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest
Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard,
Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213
(562/980-4001).

Written data or views, or requests for
a public hearing on this request, should
be submitted to the Director, 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
application would be appropriate.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
subject amendment to permit No. 875-
1401 is 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
fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222.23).