

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard****[USCG 2002-13191]****Review of Great Lakes Pilotage Bridge-Hour Standards for American Pilots on the Great Lakes****AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard announces the availability of, and seeks public comments on, the Review of Bridge-Hour Standards for American pilots on the Great Lakes dated March 4, 2003. The Review asks, as it states, "how much pilotage work needs to be done, and how many pilots we need to do the work." In particular, it arrives at establishing the number of pilots we need to do that work "*safely, reliably, and efficiently* (italics in original)."

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before July 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Please identify your comments and related material by the docket number of this notice (USCG 2002-13191). Then, to make sure they enter the docket just once, submit them by just one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington DC 20590-0001.

(2) By delivery to room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

(3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251.

(4) Electronically through the Web site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments and related material received from the public, as well as documents mentioned in this notice, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The Review is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. It is also available from Mr. Tom Lawler, Chief Economist, Great Lakes Pilotage, Commandant (G-MW-1), U.S. Coast

Guard Headquarters, telephone 202-267-1241.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on this Notice or on the Review of Bridge-Hour Standards for American pilots on the Great Lakes, write or call Mr. Tom Lawler where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Ms. Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**What Action Is the Coast Guard Taking?**

The current Bridge-Hour Standards for American pilots on the Great Lakes appear at 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 404, Appendix A. These standards help determine the number of pilots necessary to guide commercial vessels engaged in foreign trade through the American waters of the Great Lakes system in a safe, reliable, and efficient manner. Elaborate and rigid though they seem, they only constitute "guidance" to the Director, Great Lakes Pilotage. They are a component of the pilotage program's ratemaking process and, as such, are part of the equation used in determining the annual rate that owners and operators of vessels must pay for pilotage in each area of the Great Lakes. They also help determine the number of hours of work a pilot must perform to earn target compensation. Under them, a pilot in designated waters must work 1000 hours during the season to make target compensation while a pilot in undesignated waters must work 1800 hours to make target compensation.

At the requests of Representative James L. Oberstar and the St. Lawrence Seaway Pilots' Association, the Coast Guard chartered a study to determine whether the Bridge-Hour Standards are reasonable for each area of the Great Lakes and, if not, seeking recommendations for change. The study in the form of the Review now made available was completed on March 4, 2003. The Coast Guard has placed the Review in the Public Docket (USCG 2002-13191). It seeks public comments on the Review and on its recommendations.

Why Is the Coast Guard Taking This Action?

The Coast Guard is taking this action to obtain the benefit of public comment before determining which, if any, of the recommendations of the Review it will approve. It will incorporate any recommendations it does approve in a

revision to the current rules on ratemaking, at a future date.

How May I Participate in This Action?

You may participate in this action by submitting comments and related material on the Review of Bridge-Hour Standards for American pilots on the Great Lakes. If you submit written comments please include—

- Your name and address;
- The docket number for this notice (USCG 2002-13191);
- The specific section of the Review to which each comment applies; and
- The reason for each comment.

You may mail, deliver, fax, or electronically submit your comments and related material to the Docket Management Facility, using an address or fax number listed in **ADDRESSES**. Please do not submit the same comment material more than once. If you mail or deliver your comments and material, they must be on 8½-by-11-inch paper, and the quality of the copy should be clear enough for copying and scanning. If you mail your comments and material and would like to know whether the Facility received them, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. The Coast Guard will consider all comments and material received during the 60-day comment period.

Once we have considered all comments and related material, we may publish an NPRM amending the standards used to determine the number of American pilots needed to guide foreign-flag vessels through the Great Lakes system in a safe, reliable, and efficient manner.

Dated: May 2, 2003.

L.L. Hereth,

Rear Admiral, Coast Guard, Acting Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 03-11984 Filed 5-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Federal Emergency Management Agency****Open Meeting of the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services**

AGENCY: Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

Summary: FEMA announces the following open meeting.

Name: Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS).

Date of Meeting: June 5, 2003.

Place: Building J, Room 107, National Emergency Training Center (NETC), 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727.

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Proposed Agenda: Review and submission for approval of previous FICEMS Committee Meeting Minutes; Ambulance Safety Subcommittee and Counter-terrorism Subcommittee report; presentation of member agency reports; and reports of other interested parties.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting will be open to the public with limited seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. See the Response and Security Procedures below.

Response Procedures: Committee Members and members of the general public who plan to attend the meeting should contact Ms. Patti Roman, on or before Tuesday, June 3, 2003, via mail at NATEK Incorporated, 4200-G Technology Court, Chantilly, Virginia 20151, or by telephone at (703) 818-7070, or via facsimile at (703) 818-0165, or via e-mail at proman@natekinc.com. This is necessary to be able to create and provide a current roster of visitors to NETC Security per directives.

Security Procedures: Increased security controls and surveillance are in effect at the National Emergency Training Center. All visitors must have a valid picture identification card and their vehicles will be subject to search by Security personnel. All visitors will be issued a visitor pass, which must be worn at all times while on campus. Please allow adequate time before the meeting to complete the security process.

Conference Call Capabilities: If you are not able to attend in person, a toll free number has been set up for teleconferencing. The toll free number will be available from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Members should call in around 10:30 a.m. The number is 1-800-320-4330. The FICEMS conference code is "10." If you plan to call in, you should just enter the number "10"—no need to hit any other buttons, such as the star or pound keys.

FICEMS Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the meeting will be prepared and will be available upon request 30 days after they have been approved at the next FICEMS Committee Meeting on September 5, 2003. The minutes will also be posted on the United States Fire Administration website at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/ems/ficems.htm> within 30 days after their approval at

the September 5, 2003 FICEMS Committee Meeting.

Dated: May 7, 2003.

R. David Paulison,

Director, Preparedness Division.

[FR Doc. 03-12003 Filed 5-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Emergency Exemption: Issuance of Permit for Endangered Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of emergency issuance of permit for endangered species.

SUMMARY: The following permit was issued.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted for this application are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone (703) 358-2104 or fax (703) 358-2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone (703) 358-2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 17, 2003, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a permit (PRT-070221) to the Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati, Ohio, to import biological samples collected from bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) from Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for the purpose of scientific research. The 30-day comment period required under the Endangered Species Act was waived pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1539(c). The Service determined that an emergency affecting the health and life of the remaining bonobos sanctuary population existed, and that no reasonable alternative was available to the applicant for several reasons.

The Cincinnati Zoo requested a permit to import multiple blood samples, tracheal washings, gastric washings, urine, feces, hair and tissues samples from all animals housed at the Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of Congo for emergency and ongoing health/disease evaluation purposes. Samples will be utilized exclusively for diagnostic and scientific purposes. The specimens will be used to run diagnostics tests to

determine the cause of the death of several animals that have died during an ongoing disease outbreak at the sanctuary within the past several weeks. The necessary diagnostic testing is not available in Africa. The results of health and disease testing from these bonobos may result in a secondary benefit by providing important clues to disease threats to the wild bonobo population.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has information collection approval from OMB through March 31, 2004, OMB Control Number 1018-0093. Federal Agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.

Dated: April 18, 2003.

Timothy J. Van Norman,

Chief, Branch of Permits—International Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 03-11945 Filed 5-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Marine Mammals

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permit for marine mammals.

SUMMARY: The following permit was issued.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted for this application is available for review by any party who submits a written request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax (703) 358-2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone (703) 358-2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 3, 2003, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 10026), that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Ricky H. Jackson for a permit (PRT-067142) to import one polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Foxe Basin polar bear population, Canada, prior to April 30, 1994, for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on April 17, 2003, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and