

potential changes to those reference points.

Management of the Black Sea Bass Party/Charter Fishery

A portion of the TAL for black sea bass could be allocated to the party/charter sector each year. Currently, fishermen fishing from party/charter boats are regulated by state regulations that apply to all recreational fishermen. A separate allocation could allow for the development of regulations that apply only to party/charter fishermen.

Management of the Black Sea Bass Shore Fishery

A portion of the TAL could be allocated to the fishermen fishing for black sea bass from shore. Currently, fishermen fishing from the shore and shore-based structures are regulated by state regulations that apply to all recreational fishermen. A separate allocation could allow for the development of regulations that apply only to shore-based fishermen.

Black Sea Bass Discards

The issue of regulatory discards in the commercial and recreational fisheries for black sea bass has been raised a number of times over the years. However, discard rates have been difficult to quantify. In addition, about 25 percent of the black sea bass caught and released by anglers are assumed to die in the recreational fishery.

Data Collection Requirements and Protocols

To improve the information available for assessment of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass, changes could be made to information required to be reported through the Vessel Trip Report, dealer weighout, and observer programs.

Rollover of Unused Quota

The unused portion of the TAL in the recreational and commercial fisheries for each of the species could be rolled into the next year's respective TAL.

Limitations on Vessel Replacement Upgrades

The current commercial permits for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass allow for a one-time replacement/upgrade of 20 percent in horsepower and/or 10 percent in vessel length. Several individuals have indicated these restrictions may be unfair, particularly for small vessel owners. The Council could consider changes to these regulations.

Scoping Meetings Schedule

Ten public scoping meetings are scheduled as follows (note that NY meeting(s) to be determined):

1. Monday, April 3, 2006, 7 p.m.; Roanoke Island Festival Park, One Festival Park, Manteo, NC; Contact: Red Munden, (252) 726-7021.

2. Tuesday, April 4, 2006, 7 p.m.; Carteret Community College, CMAST Building, Room 306, Morehead City, NC; Contact: Red Munden, (252) 726-7021.

3. Tuesday, April 4, 2006, 7 p.m.; Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Ave, 4th floor, Newport News, VA; Contact: Jack Travelstead, (757) 247-2247.

4. Monday, April 10, 2006, 6 p.m.; University of Rhode Island Narragansett Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI; Contact: Brian Murphy, (401) 423-1941.

5. Monday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.; Ocean Pines Library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD; Contact: Howard J. King, III, (410) 260-8281.

6. Tuesday, April 11, 2006, 7 p.m.; Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Marine Headquarters, 333 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, CT; Contact: Dave Simpson, (860) 434-6043.

7. Tuesday, April 18, 2006, 7 p.m.; Ocean County Complex, 118 Washington Street; Toms River, NJ; Contact: Tom McCloy, (609) 292-7794.

8. Tuesday, April 18, 2006, 7 p.m.; Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Richardson and Robbins Building Auditorium, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE; Contact: Rick Cole, (302) 739-4782.

9. Thursday, April 20, 2006, 6 p.m.; Radisson Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, MA; Contact: David Pierce, (617) 626-1532.

10. Tuesday, May 2, 2006, 7 p.m.; Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, 36th & Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA; Contact: Dan Furlong, (302) 674-2331.

One or two public scoping meetings will be held in NY but have not yet been scheduled. Contact: Gordon Colvin, (631) 444-0433. This information will be posted on the Commission's website (<http://www.asmfc.org>) when available.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jan Saunders, (302) 674-2331, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 22, 2006.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E6-4500 Filed 3-27-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031506C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 881-1745

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC), P.O. Box 1329, Seward, Alaska 99664 (Dr. Shannon Atkinson, Principal Investigator), has been issued a permit to conduct scientific research on captive Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*).

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

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)427-2521; and

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan or Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 8, 2004, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 10681) that a request for a scientific research permit to take the species identified above had been submitted by the above-named organization. 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 of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The ASLC has been issued a 5-year permit to continue research on three permanently captive Steller sea lions. Research objectives include the investigation of stress responses, endocrine and immune system function,

and seasonal variations to normal biological parameters such as mass and body composition; and research and development of external tags and attachments for future deployment in the field.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an environmental assessment was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities. After a Finding of No Significant Impact, the determination was made that it was not necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement.

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 such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: March 16, 2006.

Stephen L. Leathery

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

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Request for Comments Concerning Proposed Extension of Approval of a Collection of Information—Safety Standard for Walk-Behind Power Lawn Mowers

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Consumer Product Safety Commission requests comments on a proposed request for an extension of approval of a collection of information from manufacturers and importers of walk-behind power lawn mowers. This collection of information consists of testing and recordkeeping requirements in certification regulations implementing the Safety Standard for Walk-Behind Power Lawn Mowers (16 CFR part 1205). The Commission will consider all comments received in response to this notice before requesting an extension of approval of this collection of information from the Office of Management and Budget.

DATES: The Office of the Secretary must receive written comments not later than May 30, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be captioned "Walk-Behind Power

Lawn Mowers" and sent by e-mail to cpssc-os@cpssc.gov. Written comments may also be sent to the Office of the Secretary by facsimile at (301) 504-0127, or by mail to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, 20814.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the proposed extension of approval of the collection of information, or to obtain a copy of 16 CFR part 1205, call or write Linda L. Glatz, Office of Planning and Evaluation, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington DC 20207; telephone (301) 504-7671.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1979, the Commission issued the Safety Standard for Walk-Behind Power Lawn Mowers (16 CFR part 1205) under provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA) (15 U.S.C. 2051 *et seq.*) to eliminate or reduce risks of amputations, avulsions, lacerations, and other serious injuries which have resulted from the accidental contact of some part of an operator's body with the rotating blade of a power lawn mower. The standard contains performance and labeling requirements for walk-behind power lawn mowers to address risks of blade-contact injuries.

A. Certification Requirements

Section 14(a) of the CPSA (15 U.S.C. 2063(a)) requires manufacturers, importers, and private labelers of a consumer product subject to a consumer product safety standard to issue a certificate stating that the product complies with all applicable consumer product safety standards. Section 14(a) of the CPSA also requires that the certificate of compliance must be based on a test of each product or upon a reasonable testing program.

Section 14(b) of the CPSA authorizes the Commission to issue regulations to prescribe a reasonable testing program to support certificates of compliance with a consumer product safety standard. Section 16(b) of the CPSA (15 U.S.C 2065(b)) authorizes the Commission to issue rules to require that firms "establish and maintain" records to permit the Commission to determine compliance with rules issued under the authority of the CPSA.

The Commission has issued regulations prescribing requirements for a reasonable testing program to support certificates of compliance with the standard for walk-behind power mowers. These regulations also require manufacturers, importers, and private labelers of walk-behind power mowers to establish and maintain records to

demonstrate compliance with the requirements for testing to support certification of compliance. 16 CFR part 1205, subpart B.

The Commission uses the information compiled and maintained by manufacturers and importers of walk-behind power mowers to protect consumers from risks of injuries associated with walk-behind power lawn mowers. More specifically, the Commission uses this information to determine whether the mowers produced and imported comply with the applicable standard. The Commission also uses this information to obtain corrective actions if walk-behind power mowers fail to comply with the standard in a manner which creates a substantial risk of injury to the public.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the collection of information requirements for walk-behind mowers under control number 3041-0091. OMB's most recent extension of approval will expire on June 30, 2006. The Commission proposes to request an extension of approval without change for these collection of information requirements.

B. Estimated Burden

The Commission staff estimates that about 20 firms are subject to the testing and recordkeeping requirements of the certification regulations. The Commission staff estimates further that the annual testing and recordkeeping burden imposed by the regulations on each of these firms on average is approximately 390 hours. Thus, the total annual burden imposed by the certification regulations on all manufacturers and importers of walk-behind power mowers is about 7,800 hours.

The Commission staff estimates that the hourly wage for the time required to perform the required testing and to maintain the required records is about \$42.84 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 2005), and that the annual total cost to the industry is approximately \$334,000.

C. Request for Comments

The Commission solicits written comments from all interested persons about the proposed collection of information. The Commission specifically solicits information relevant to the following topics:

—Whether the collection of information described above is necessary for the proper performance of the Commission's functions, including whether the information would have practical utility;