

Concurrent with publication of this notice, we will instruct the Customs Service to allow, at option of the importer, the posting, until the completion of the review, of a bond or security in lieu of a cash deposit for each entry of merchandise (19 CFR 353.22(h)(4)).

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under administrative protective orders in accordance with 19 CFR 353.34(b).

This initiation and notice are in accordance with section 751(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)) and 19 CFR 353.22(h).

This notice is published pursuant to 19 CFR 353.22(h).

Dated: November 29, 1995.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Compliance.

[FR Doc. 95-30280 Filed 12-12-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-M

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Coastal Information Management: Customer Survey

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 12, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Gerald Taché, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Catherine McCrary, NOAA Coastal Services Center, 1990 Hobson Ave., Charleston, SC 29405-2623. Telephone: (803) 974-6251, Fax: (803) 974-6224

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal

Services Center (CSC) was established in 1994 for the purpose of bridging the gap between the scientists and managers in the coastal zone management community. There are two main components of the CSC: Coastal Management Services (CMS) and Coastal Information Services (CIS). The goals of the CIS division are to be an integrator and provider of marine ecosystem and coastal watershed data to coastal resource managers. A survey is being used to learn how we can best meet the needs of the coastal information management community.

The objectives of the survey are: to get feedback from the coastal information management community on the relevance, importance, and need of specific Center proposed products; to give coastal information managers the opportunity to describe other needs and/or programs that they would like the Center to foster; and to obtain information on the hardware and software platforms and capabilities of the coastal information management community. The survey results will provide the Coastal Information Services division of the Coastal Services Center with specific information about the needs of the coastal information management community.

II. Method of Collection

A combination of mail surveys and electronic surveys on the Internet will be used.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Coastal Information Managers from the following programs or agencies: Coastal Zone Management Programs, National Estuarine Research Reserve Sites, National Marine Sanctuaries, Sea Grant Institutions, and Natural Resource Management agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 600.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 198.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and

clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 6, 1995.

Gerald Taché,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 95-30278 Filed 12-12-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-P

[I.D. 112095C]

Small Takes of Ringed Seals Incidental to On-Ice Seismic Activity

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of letters of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that letters of authorization to take ringed seals incidental to on-ice seismic operations in the Beaufort Sea off Alaska were issued on December 1, 1995 to BP Exploration, Western Geophysical, and Geco-Prakla, all of Anchorage, AK.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These letters of authorization are effective from January 1, 1996, through May 31, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The applications and letters are available for review in the following offices: Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and Western Alaska Field Office, NMFS, 701 C Street, Anchorage, AK 99513.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2055 or Ron Morris, Western Alaska Field Office, NMFS, (907) 271-5006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings

are made, and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term "taking" means to harass, hunt, capture or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if the Secretary of Commerce finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat, and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of ringed seals incidental to on-ice seismic activities were published on January 13, 1993 (58 FR 4091) and remain in effect until December 31, 1997.

Summary of Requests

NMFS received requests for letters of authorization on the dates specified from (1) BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., 900 East Benson Blvd. P.O. Box 196612, Anchorage, AK 99519-6612 (September 11, 1995); (2) Geco-Prakla, 500 W. International Airport Road, Anchorage, AK 99518 (October 11, 1995) and (3) Western Geophysical/Western Atlas International, Inc. 351 E. International Airport Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1299 (November 10, 1995). All letters request a take by harassment of a small number of ringed seals incidental to on-ice seismic work in the Beaufort Sea, AK.

Issuance of these letters of authorization is based on findings that the total takings will have a negligible impact on the ringed seal species or stock and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of this species for subsistence uses.

Dated: December 1, 1995.

William W. Fox, Jr.,

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

[FR Doc. 95-30379 Filed 12-12-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

National Weather Service; Automated Surface Observing System

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The National Weather Service (NWS) implemented the Supplementary Data Program effective October 1, 1995. This program supplements data provided by the Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS). Observations produced through the Supplementary Data Program are transmitted separately from the ASOS operations and provide data to support hydrometeorological operations and climatological applications. This notice explains the reasons for the shift in reporting methods and describes how to obtain and interpret hydrometeorological information that was previously available in the surface aviation observation (SAO) format.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Requests for information should be sent to Steve Pritchett, NWS, Office of Systems Operations, 1325 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or through electronic mail at suppdata@smtpgate.ssmc.noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Pritchett at 301-713-1792.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of the NWS modernization, the NWS is undergoing a major shift in the methods used to observe and report surface weather information.

The NWS has developed and is installing ASOS to automate certain observing functions, thereby taking advantage of advances in sensor and microprocessor technology. At approximately 900 airports in the United States during the 1990s, the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Transportation, and Defense are deploying ASOS to support aviation operations and weather forecasting and warnings, as well as general needs of the hydrometeorological, climatological, and meteorological research communities.

ASOS will provide greatly expanded coverage (locations and observing hours), objective observations, a continuous weather watch, and improved operating efficiency. ASOS, when integrated with advances in remote sensing and weather information processing systems, is expected to contribute to improved warning and forecast services. ASOS will perform the basic observing functions necessary to generate a SAO. However, because some weather parameters observed manually today will not initially be observed by ASOS, the NWS is introducing two new classes of observations to the array of meteorological surface observations: the supplementary data observation (SDO) and the supplementary climate data (SCD).

Supplementary observations are *not* appended to the ASOS observation; rather, they are disseminated as separate messages. The NWS will disseminate these reports to a variety of Federal and non-Federal users of NWS data. Supplementary data will be made available through NWS communication systems such as Family of Services, NOAA Weather Wire, and various computer and commercial vendor services.

Surface observational data in the ASOS era will continue to come from many sources. ASOS, along with complementary data derived from remote sensing technologies, such as satellites, will form the backbone of the surface observing network (SAO) system. Surface data from over 20,000 automatic and manual hydrometeorological sites, including cooperative and hydrologic networks, will continue to play an important role in NWS operational forecast programs. They comprise the climatological data bases and supply information to users who currently rely on surface observations from airports, as well as for non-aviation related information.

The NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will issue these new supplementary data reports. The SDOs will provide significant, event-driven observations primarily intended to support weather forecasting and general hydrometeorological needs. Elements may be reported in SDOs on an "as-observed" basis and do not imply a continuous or basic weather watch. SDOs will not generally include elements that are in augmented ASOS observations from that location.

The SCD reports may provide routinely scheduled observations useful for climatological applications, as well as hydrometeorological operations. SCDs are routinely issued at designated hours at about the same time as the recorded surface observation (note: the SDOs are issued on an event basis, which may fall "on the hour" only by chance).

Most offices issuing SCDs and SDOs will not issue the full suite of SCD/SDO elements. There will be some variation among individual offices in the elements they report. Elements reported in SCDs will generally not be reported in SDOs. Exceptions are: (1) precipitation type and intensity reported in SCDs may also be reported in SDOs when considered significant by the on-site observer, and (2) volcanic ash reported in SCDs will also be reported in SDOs. Observations of volcanic eruptions and volcanic ash when first noted and severe weather (severe thunderstorms and tornadic