

the potential incidental harvest of ESA-listed residual sockeye, visually indistinguishable from kokanee. The take of ESA-listed adult fish associated with the proposed kokanee fishery in Redfish Lake is requested in 1997 only.

Also for modification 4 to permit 844 (P503I), IDFG requests an additional incidental take of adult, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with a salmon sport fishery on the upper South Fork of the Salmon River after June 12, 1997. The fishery will target non-listed, artificially-propagated, summer chinook salmon. The primary source of take would be the incidental catch, handling, and release of ESA-listed adult fish with an associated catch and release mortality. The specifics of the fishery, including season dates, duration, locations, and mitigative activities are tailored to provide the appropriate level of protection for ESA-listed fish in the watershed. The fishery is proposed to be terminated when quotas are reached or before the onset of spawning activities. The additional take of ESA-listed adult fish associated with the proposed upper South Fork Salmon River salmon fishery is requested in 1997 only. Permit 844 expires on April 30, 1998.

Those individuals requesting a hearing on the permit modification request should set out the specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate (see ADDRESSES). The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the above application summary are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Dated: April 29, 1997.

Nancy Chu,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-11670 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042497D]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 859-1373)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the United States Air Force, 30th Space Wing, Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA 93437-5320, has applied in due form for a permit to take California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*), and northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 4, 1997.

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

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

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

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 13130, 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 to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The purpose of the proposed research is to study the effects of noise from rocket launches and subsequent sonic booms on pinnipeds inhabiting Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) and the Northern Channel Islands (NCI). Up to 25 California sea lions, 60 Pacific harbor seals (if available, rehabilitated beached/stranded harbor seals will be used in ABR studies at VAFB), and 25 northern elephant seals per year may be taken by capture, chemically sedation, blood sampling, measurement of auditory brainstem response, flipper tagging, and attachment/retrieval of telemetry instruments. Not all animals may be subjected to all procedures and some animals will be captured a second time for instrument recovery. Up to 200 California sea lion pups and up to 500 northern elephant seal pups will be roto-tagged annually. Up to 5,000

California sea lions, 600 Pacific harbor seals, and 2,000 northern elephant seals may be taken by incidental disturbance caused by capture or census activities annually. Although mortality from the proposed activities is not anticipated, it is possible that undetected health problems may lead to aberrant reactions to the immobilizing drugs and therefore permission is requested for the accidental mortality of up to 2 animals of each species annually. 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: April 24, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 97-11669 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

Notice of Public Meeting on the Proposed Experimental Program To Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT)

AGENCY: Technology Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting on the proposed experimental program to stimulate competitive technology (EPSCoT).

SUMMARY: The Technology Administration will hold an open meeting on May 29, 1997 to solicit input on the proposed Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT) from representatives of state and local government, universities, and the private- and non-profit sectors, who are involved with technology development, diffusion, commercialization, and using technology to promote economic growth. The purpose of the meeting is to determine what activities are currently being conducted in the states to foster technology-based economic growth and how a new competitive, cost-shared federal grant program with the mission of fostering the development of indigenous technology assets in states that are traditionally under represented in Federal R&D funding could be structured. The following states would currently be eligible to participate in the EPSCoT:

Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

DATES: The meeting will be held on May 29, 1997 from 9 am until 12 pm.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Research Center for Coal and Energy at the West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. Individuals wishing to attend the meeting should contact Maureen Wood, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Technology, at (202) 482-1091 by close of business May 27, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marc Cummings, Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce at (202) 482-8323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Technology Administration (TA) is proposing a new, competitive, matching grant program called the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT) to foster the development of indigenous technology assets in states that traditionally have been under represented in the distribution of Federal R&D expenditures.

Technology is the engine of economic growth and, as such, its development, deployment, and diffusion are critical to U.S. competitiveness. Although it is often said that nations do not compete, companies do, it is apparent that sub-national units—regions within states and clusters of states—do compete, not simply with one another, but also internationally. This is because in a global economy, capital, labor, and technology are increasingly mobile and they are attracted to regions with the most promising opportunities. To this end, regional policies and infrastructures play a large role in determining both where companies locate and their ability to be competitive in a global marketplace.

Commerce Department research shows that firms that adopt advanced technologies create more jobs at higher wages than those that do not. Furthermore, regions that boast concentrations of high-tech industries enjoy high growth rates and standards of living. Regions thus compete to attract federal research facilities, private investment, and skilled labor. Recent research suggests that a region's technological infrastructure is among the most important factors that businesses consider when making location decisions. Accordingly, regions are searching for strategies to attract and

retain high-tech firms and the jobs that they bring. These strategies may involve building on existing strengths at research universities, providing extension services to local businesses, or integrating existing business assistance resources, but ultimately their success is contingent upon an institutional capacity to support technology-based economic development.

In the Federal government's efforts to foster competitiveness, it must ensure that all regions of the nation develop the necessary infrastructure to support indigenous technology development. Most less populated states, whose manufacturers tend to be small- and medium-sized, are at a competitive disadvantage because there is generally no research base on which local businesses can build. The EPSCoT seeks to remedy this disadvantage.

The EPSCoT seeks to build on the NSF's successful Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) which was established in 1979 to stimulate sustainable improvements in the quality of the academic science and technology infrastructure of states that traditionally have been under represented in receiving federal R&D funds. Within these states, the EPSCoR's primary emphasis is on improving the competitive performance of major research universities. By focusing on building the science base of these regions, primarily in universities, the EPSCoR has successfully strengthened the research capacity of universities in these states; yet, there remains a technology "gap."

Improving the competitive performance of universities, which is an essential component of a successful technology-based economy, is often not sufficient to establish new companies, develop new job opportunities or raise the standard of living.

That is why the Department of Commerce proposes to create an EPSCoT—the technology counterpart to the EPSCoR. EPSCoT would help to bridge the gap between university research and the local economy. It would develop essential economic development tools to foster regional technology-based economic growth. The program would stimulate the development of indigenous technological infrastructure and institutional capabilities of states through a variety of means, including outreach activities, technology development and deployment, technology transfer, education and training, and better linking universities, firms, and state and local governments.

Dated: April 28, 1997.

Mary Good,

Under Secretary for Technology.

[FR Doc. 97-11617 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-18-M

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Amendment of an Import Restraint Period and Limit for Certain Wool Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Russia

April 30, 1997.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs amending an import restraint period and limit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 7, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Naomi Freeman, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of this limit, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927-5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854).

In exchange of letters dated March 18, 1997 and March 26, 1997, the Governments of the United States and the Russian Federation agreed to amend their Bilateral Textile Agreement, effected by exchange of notes dated August 13, 1996 and September 9, 1996. The new restraint periods shall be October 1, 1996 through December 31, 1997, followed by three consecutive twelve-month periods beginning on January 1, 1998 through December 31, 2000.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to amend the current restraint period to end on December 31, 1997 at an increased level.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 61 FR 66263, published on December 17, 1996). Also