

regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

The requested amendment has been issued 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).

Permit No. 875-1401 currently authorizes the harassment of several species of marine mammals during the conduct of research to study the effects of low-frequency sound produced by the Navy's Surface Towed Array Surveillance System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) system on the behavior of blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*) and fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) feeding in the Southern California Bight during September/October of 1997 and/or 1998. It was amended on December 10, 1997 to provide for the conduct of playback experiments using a SURTASS LFA sound source to study behavioral responses of gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) to SURTASS LFA signals, radio tagging via suction cup attachment of up to 14 gray whales, and harassment of individuals of several other species of cetaceans, pinnipeds, and possibly sea turtles, may be taken (*i.e.*, by harassment or auditory temporary threshold shift) during the studies on gray whales. Permit No. 875-1401 has now been amended to authorize the conduct of playback experiments using the SURTASS LFA sound source to study behavioral responses of breeding and nursing humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and foraging sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) in Hawaii from mid-February through mid-April of 1998. Individuals of several other cetacean, pinniped, and sea turtle species may be taken (*i.e.*, by harassment or auditory temporary threshold shift) during the proposed experiments.

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: February 12, 1998.

Art Jeffers,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Technical Information Service

NTIS Advisory Board Meeting

AGENCY: National Technical Information Service, Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the National Technical Information Service Advisory Board (the "Board") will meet on Tuesday, March 10, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The session from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will be closed to the Public.

The Board was established under the authority of 15 U.S.C. 3704b(c), and was Chartered on September 15, 1989. The Board is composed of five members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce who are eminent in such fields as information resources management, information technology, and library and information services. The purpose of the meeting is to review and make recommendations regarding general policies and operations of NTIS, including policies in connection with fees and charges for its services. The agenda will include a progress report on NTIS activities, an update on the progress of FedWorld, and a discussion of NTIS' long range plans. The closed session discussion is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m. on March 10, 1998. The session will be closed because premature disclosure of the information to be discussed would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of NTIS' business plans.

DATES: The meeting will convene on March 10, 1998, at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 2029 Sills Building, National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The meeting will be open to public participation from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on March 10, 1998. Approximately thirty minutes will be set aside on March 10, 1998, for comments or questions from the public. Seats will be available for the public and for the media on a first-come, first-served basis. Any member of the public may submit written comments concerning the Board's affairs at any time. Copies of the minutes of the open session meeting will be available within

thirty days of the meeting from the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Lucas, NTIS Advisory Board Secretary, National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161, Telephone: (703) 605-6400; Fax (703) 487-4093.

Dated: February 17, 1998.

Donald R. Johnson,

Director.

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Public Information Collection Requirement

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Renew Information Collection #3038-0005: Rules Pertaining to the Operations and Activities of Commodity Pool Operators and Commodity Trading Advisors and to Monthly Reporting by Futures Commission Merchants.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission is planning to renew information collection 3038-0005, Rules Pertaining to the Operations and Activities of Commodity Pool Operators and Commodity Trading Advisors and to Monthly Reporting by Futures Commission Merchants, which is due to expire on April 30, 1998. The information collected pursuant to this rule provides a basis for determining compliance with Part 4 of the Commission's regulations which pertains to Commodity Pool Operators and Commodity Trading Advisors.

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Commission solicits comments to:

(1) evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) minimize the burden of the collection of the information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 21, 1998.