

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 030598A]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Bruce A. Carlson, Ph.D., University of Hawaii at Manoa, Waikiki Aquarium, 2777 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815, has applied in due form for a permit to take Hawaiian monk seals, *Monachus schauinslandi*, for purposes of scientific research and enhancement. In addition, Douglas P. DeMaster, Ph.D., National Marine Mammal Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Building 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, has applied in due form for a permit to take Steller sea lions, *Eumetopias jubatus*, and northern fur seals, *Callorhinus ursinus*, for the purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before April 17, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on these particular requests would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Shapiro or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permits are requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The activity proposed by Dr. Carlson involves the continued holding of three Hawaiian monk seals for the purposes of enhancing the survival and recovery of the species, and for scientific research. The seals have been held under the authority of Scientific Research Permit Numbers 413 and 482, issued to the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC). The applicant seeks to: assess the efficiency with which Hawaiian monk seals assimilate and metabolize amino acids and fatty acids from common prey types; and elucidate and monitor how reproductive and metabolic activity of male Hawaiian monk seals are related.

In addition to the projected research above, the seals will be made available for scientific studies to other researchers whose protocols have been approved by the University of Hawaii Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (UHIACUC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources. Due to the possibilities of disease transmission, release would present a finite and unwarranted risk to the wild population. Any public display of the seals would be incidental to and not interfere with the proposed research and enhancement activities.

The second applicant, Dr. DeMaster, seeks authorization to count, capture, handle, flipper tag, blood sample, and biopsy sample Steller sea lion pups, dart biopsy adult and juvenile Steller sea lions, and disturb Stellers of all ages during the conduct of aerial surveys. Research activities are scheduled to take place in Alaska. In addition, the applicant requests authority to disturb a small number of northern fur seals on Bogoslov Island during aerial surveys.

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 activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of these applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

The application and related documents submitted by Dr. Carlson may be reviewed in the following locations:

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

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; and

Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396;

The application and related documents submitted by Dr. DeMaster may be reviewed in the following locations:

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

Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Building 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; and

Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

Dated: March 12, 1998.

Art Jeffers,

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

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Technical Advisory Committee To Develop a Federal Information Processing Standard for the Federal Key Management Infrastructure; Meeting**

AGENCY: Technology Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., notice is hereby given that the Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Federal Information Processing Standard for the Federal Key Management Infrastructure will hold a meeting on April 22-23, 1998. The Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Federal Information Processing Standard for the Federal Key Management Infrastructure was established by the Secretary of Commerce to provide industry advice to the Department on encryption key recovery for use by federal government