

to prepare a final consolidated report which incorporates the findings, recommendations and discussions of the reviewers' reports. The reviewers' reports will be included in the final report in their entirety as annexes.

### 1. Statistics Review Panel

The Statistics Review Panel will consider the accuracy and adequacy of fishery statistics for the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico to account for all commercial, recreational, and charter fishing harvests and fishing effort on the stock. In addition, the Statistics Review Panel will consider the collection of information on bycatch in the shrimp trawl fishery in the Gulf of Mexico and the estimation of total bycatch for the shrimp fishery. The Statistics Review Panel will review the current data collection programs conducted by NMFS and states that are used in the assessment process including the cooperative commercial fisheries statistics program, the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey, the headboat sampling program, the observer program that collects bycatch information for the shrimp fishery, fishery independent surveys, and appropriate state sampling programs that are used in the assessments. The goal of this review is to examine the fishery information collection programs in the Gulf of Mexico which provide the scientific data for managing the fishery, setting regulations, determining allocations and conducting stock assessments. The report from this review will be part of the information to be considered during the Science and Management Review.

### 2. Economics Review Panel

The Economics Review Panel will consider the data that are available to conduct economic inquiries and will review and evaluate the economic analyses that are currently available and that contribute to the understanding of the economic ramifications of alternative management strategies for red snapper. The goal of this review is to examine the analyses conducted in support of establishing an individual transferable quota system for the red snapper fishery and determine whether the analyses were sufficient and whether additional analyses of other alternatives are called for.

### 3. Science and Management Review Panel

The Science and Management Review Panel will consider all aspects of the scientific and management basis for managing the red snapper stock in the Gulf of Mexico. The review will

consider the appropriateness of the scientific methods, information, and models used to assess the status and trends of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper stock and their usefulness as the basis for the fishery management plan for the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery. It will also consider the appropriateness and adequacy of the management measures in the fishery management plan for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico for conserving and managing the red snapper fishery under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The goal of this review is to examine the available scientific data relating to the status of U.S. Gulf of Mexico red snapper, to determine the best scientific advice to be derived from it, and to determine whether the preferred management options are supported by the scientific advice.

### Presentation of Information to Review Panels

Recommendations of individuals or representatives of organizations to present information to the review panels may be submitted by any person or organization. When submitting recommendations for presentations, include the person or organization's name and affiliation along with a brief listing of each person's background, experience, and the type of information to be presented. Individuals recommended for presentations may have previous involvement in the assessment or management of the red snapper fishery, may have a financial interest in fisheries affected by the outcome of these reviews, or may represent other interested parties. A wide range of presenters will be selected to ensure that representatives from all sectors affected by management of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico have an opportunity to present information to the review panels.

Dated: April 29, 1997.

**Nancy Foster,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042897C]

### Endangered Species; Permits

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of an application for modification 4 to incidental take permit 844 (P503I).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in Boise, ID (IDFG) has applied in due form for modification 4 to permit 844 authorizing an incidental take of a threatened species associated with sport-fishing activities.

**DATES:** Written comments or requests for a public hearing on the modification application must be received on or before June 4, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Environmental and Technical Services Division, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing should be submitted to the Chief, Environmental and Technical Services Division, Portland.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** IDFG requests modification 4 to permit 844 under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

Permit 844 authorizes IDFG an incidental take of adult and juvenile, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and adult, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with the State of Idaho's sport-fishing activities. For modification 4, IDFG requests an incidental take of residual, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) associated with a kokanee fishery in Redfish Lake from May 1 through August 7, 1997. The fishery is proposed as a kokanee control measure. A reduction of the kokanee population in Redfish Lake is desirable because kokanee compete directly with ESA-listed sockeye salmon in the lake for food and habitat and threaten IDFG's effort to re-establish the endangered salmon's productivity in the lake. In 1995 and 1996, NMFS provided authorization to IDFG for an incidental take of residual, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon associated with a kokanee fishery in Redfish Lake. Angler retention of Redfish Lake kokanee has not been allowed since 1992 because of

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.*

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## 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]

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## 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, 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: