

David R. Keifer, Executive Director,
Mid-Atlantic Fishery
Management Council, Federal
Building, Room 2115, 300 South New
Street, Dover, DE 19901-6790, (302)
674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Robert A. Dickinson, Office of
Sustainable Fisheries, (301) 713-2337.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In
accordance with a Memorandum of
Understanding with the Secretary of
State, NMFS publishes for public review
and comment summaries of applications
received by the Secretary of State
requesting permits for foreign fishing
vessels to fish in the U.S. EEZ under
provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act
(16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*).

This notice concerns the receipt of an
application from the Government of
Estonia and the receipt of an application
from the Government of Lithuania
requesting authorization to conduct
joint venture (JV) operations in 1998 in
the Northwest Atlantic Ocean for
Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic herring.
The large stern trawler/processors
JACOB HURT and SOELA are identified
as the Estonian vessels that would
receive Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic
herring from U.S. vessels in JV
operations, and the large stern/trawler
processors MAIRONIS and UTENA are
identified as the Lithuanian vessels that
would receive Atlantic mackerel and
Atlantic herring from U.S. vessels in JV
operations.

While both applications also request
authorization for the named vessels to
directly harvest Atlantic mackerel and
Atlantic herring, since no "Total
Allowable Level of Foreign Fishing"
(TALFF) is available for either of these
species, no foreign vessels can be
permitted to directly harvest Atlantic
mackerel or Atlantic herring.

Dated: December 16, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable
Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*
[FR Doc. 97-33386 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120597A]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit No. 473-1433

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that
Ms. Janice M. Straley, P.O. Box 273,
Sitka, Alaska 99835 has been issued a
permit to take humpback whales
(*Megaptera novaeangliae*), killer whales
(*Orcinus orca*), minke whales
(*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), gray
whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), and fin
whales (*B. physalus*) for purposes of
scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related
documents are available for review
upon written request or by appointment
in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected
Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West
Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring,
MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and
Regional Administrator, Alaska
Regional Office, NMFS, NOAA, 709
West 9th Street, Federal Building,
Juneau, Alaska 99802 (907-586-7221).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On
October 31, 1997, notice was published
in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 58943)
that the above-named applicant had
submitted a request for a scientific
research permit to inadvertently harass
humpback whales (*Megaptera
novaeangliae*), during the course of
photo-identification research from
December 1, 1997, to November 30,
2002 in Alaska waters, and to
opportunistically photo-identify killer
whales (*Orcinus orca*), minke whales
(*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), gray
whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), and fin
whales (*B. physalus*) during the course
of the humpback whale studies. The
requested permit has been issued under
the authority of the Marine Mammal
Protection Act of 1972, as amended (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 (ESA) of 1973,
as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and
the regulations governing the taking,
importing, and exporting of endangered
fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

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: December 12, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,
*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*
[FR Doc. 97-33437 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121797C]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit No. 875-1401

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for
amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr.
Christopher W. Clark, Cornell
University, Ithaca, New York 14850, has
requested an amendment to permit No.
875-1401.

DATES: Written comments must be
received on or before January 22, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The application for
amendment and related documents,
including a draft environmental
assessment (EA) that examines the
environmental consequences of issuing
the requested amended permit, are
available for review upon written
request or by appointment in the
following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected
Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West
Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring,
MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest
Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard,
Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213
(562/980-4001).

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 13705, 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 for amendment to the
Marine Mammal Commission and its
Committee of Scientific Advisors.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
subject amendment to permit No. 875-
1401 is requested under the authority of
the Marine Mammal Protection Act of
1972, as amended (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 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and
the regulations governing the taking,
importing, and exporting of endangered
fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222.23).

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. An amendment to the Permit to conduct playback experiments on gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) migrating along the central California coast during January 1998 is in final review.

Dr. Clark is now requesting that the Permit be amended to provide for 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 during February-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.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a draft EA examining the environmental consequences of issuing the requested amended permit has been prepared. Based upon this draft EA, NMFS has preliminarily concluded that issuance of the requested permit will not have a significant effect on the human environment.

Dated: December 18, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 97-33474 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121797D]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 965 (P66J)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526, has requested an amendment to permit no. 965.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before January 22, 1998.

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

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

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (907/586-7221).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, 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 particular amendment request 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 email or other electronic media.

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 amendment to permit no. 965, issued on June 19, 1995 (60 FR 34233) is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (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 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

Permit no. 965 authorizes the permit holder to: to take a maximum of 125 Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) by trapping, darting, sampling, and gas anesthesia (including a maximum of 20 by recapture for follow-up blood sampling and removal of instruments); a maximum of 400 Steller pups over 6 months old by hand capture, gas

anesthesia, and marking; a maximum of 10,000 Stellers by harassment during the course of capturing suitable animals; a maximum of 15 Stellers by unintentional mortality during the course of capture and chemical immobilization and salvaged specimens of stranded animals, premature pups, and mortalities associated with this and other research activities. The holder is also authorized to take up to 30 rehabilitated California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) by injection with experimental immobilization drugs and a maximum of 3 for unintentional mortality. All takes will be over a 5-year period.

The permit holder requests amendment to the permit for: Underwater capture of 10 additional (25 total) juvenile Steller sea lions through use of a leash around their necks, with the opposite end of the leash attached to a buoy at the surface; and use of diazepam, xylazine, or medetomidine as a sedative with either flumazenil, tolazoline, or atipamezole as the reversal agent.

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: December 18, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 97-33475 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 11:00 a.m., Friday, January 30, 1998.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., N.W., Washington, DC, 9th Fl. Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Surveillance Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 97-33628 Filed 12-19-97; 2:36 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M