

counties, California. Permit 16274 is a renewal with modifications of a previously issued permit (1181 Modification 1) that expired on November 30, 2011.

The purpose of the research is to continue an ongoing effort to assess adult and juvenile population trends and distribution of ESA-listed salmonids, and to document salmonid habitat conditions in streams within MRC ownership. This information will be used to help assess land management practices and will be shared with interested state and federal agencies to help assess the current populations of ESA-listed salmonids. In the studies described below, researchers do not expect to kill any listed fish but a small number may die as an unintended result of the research activities.

In study 1, snorkel surveys and single pass electrofishing will be conducted between June and November each year in watersheds in Mendocino and Sonoma counties, California, to determine ESA-listed salmonid distribution. Captured fish will be anesthetized, identified, measured and/or weighed, and released back into the stream from which they were taken.

In Study 2, salmon spawner abundance surveys will be conducted annually from November through April in several watersheds in Mendocino County. Researchers will document the number, species, location, and behavior of spawning adults and redds will be located, flagged, and measured. Carcasses of ESA-listed salmonids will be measured, sex recorded, marked to avoid double counting, and returned to the location where they were found. There will be no take of live adult ESA-listed salmonids associated with this study.

Study 3 is a salmonid smolt outmigration abundance monitoring study in the Little North Fork Navarro River and South Fork Albion River in Mendocino County. This study will utilize one rotary screw trap and/or a weir/pipe trap from February through June in each watershed. Captured fish will be anesthetized, measured, and released downstream of the trap. Coho salmon and steelhead will be marked using caudal fin-clips and released upstream of the trap for a mark-recapture study to determine trap efficiency.

Study 4 is a salmonid monitoring study to determine the utilization of pond habitat in a tributary to the Navarro River, the Albion River and possibly a pond habitat in Cottaneva Creek, in Mendocino County. The study will either use a minnow trap and bait, fyke trap, or weir/pipe trap to determine

if ESA-listed salmonids utilize Ray Gulch as overwintering or pre-outmigration refugia. If salmon are found, the study will use mark/recapture methods to estimate population numbers.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations. The final permit decision will not be made until after the end of the 30-day comment period. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: January 20, 2012.

Angela Somma,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-1564 Filed 1-24-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA938

Marine Mammals; File No. 17029

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Matson's Laboratory, LLC (Gary Matson, Responsible Party), P.O. Box 308, 8140 Flagler Road, Milltown, MT 59851, has applied in due form for a permit to receive, import, export, possess, and conduct analyses marine mammal specimens for scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before February 24, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 17029 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705,

Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376; and

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include File No. 17029 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Morse or Jennifer Skidmore, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is 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 and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant is requesting authorization for the receipt, possession, import and export of teeth and prepared microscope slides obtained from all seal and sea lion species, except walrus (Order Pinnipedia). The Matson Laboratory provides age related data to researchers and biologists. Age data are used in population modeling, with age structure an indicator of population condition. Teeth are sent to the laboratory for cementum age analysis. Teeth from no more than 2000 individuals will be analyzed annually. Import and export authority is requested for all locations wherever pinnipeds occur and are the subject of government-authorized research and/or harvest. No live animals would be harassed or taken, lethally or otherwise, under the permit. A permit is requested for five years.

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.

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.

Dated: January 19, 2012.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-1566 Filed 1-24-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-T-2011-0050]

Establishment of a One-Year Retention Period for Trademark-Related Papers That Have Been Scanned Into the Trademark Initial Capture Registration System

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is establishing a one-year retention period that began on September 26, 2011, for papers scanned into the Trademark Initial Capture Registration System (TICRS) prior to September 26, 2011, or began or begins on a paper's submission date, for papers scanned into TICRS on or after September 26, 2011. After the expiration of the one-year retention period, the USPTO will dispose of the paper documents unless, within sufficient time prior to disposal, the relevant trademark applicant or owner files a request to correct the electronic record in TICRS, and the request remains outstanding at the time disposal would otherwise have occurred. The one-year retention period for papers scanned into TICRS will reduce the costs currently associated with indefinitely warehousing paper documents, while permitting sufficient time for the review and rarely needed correction of the scanning of such paper documents. The USPTO received no comments to the notice published September 23, 2011 on this proposal.

DATES: Applicability Date: For papers scanned into TICRS prior to September 26, 2011, the one-year retention period began on September 26, 2011. For papers scanned into TICRS on or after September 26, 2011, the one-year retention period began or begins on the paper's submission date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cynthia C. Lynch, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy, by telephone at (571) 272-8742.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 23, 2011, the USPTO published a notice and request for comments on a proposal to establish a retention period of one year for trademark-related papers that have been scanned into TICRS. See *Request for Comments on Establishment of a One-Year Retention Period for Trademark-Related Papers That Have Been Scanned Into the Trademark Initial Capture Registration System*, 76 FR 59114 (September 23, 2011), 1371 OG 168 (October 18, 2011). The USPTO received no comments in response to the notice.

The proposed change to the USPTO's past practice of indefinitely retaining papers that have been scanned into TICRS stems from the relatively small number of paper trademark-related submissions received at the USPTO and the USPTO's practice of scanning all paper documents into TICRS, resulting in paper documents that duplicate the electronic record in TICRS. Moreover, the USPTO's multiple reviews of the electronic record in TICRS to ensure accuracy of the data have rendered the practice of indefinite paper retention unnecessary and not cost-effective.

Changes: One-Year Retention Period for Paper Records

In view of the lack of any public comments opposing the establishment of a one-year retention period, the USPTO is establishing a one-year retention period for the retention of paper records. Specifically, the one-year retention period begins on: September 26, 2011, for papers scanned into TICRS prior to September 26, 2011; or a paper's submission date, for papers scanned into TICRS on or after September 26, 2011. TICRS is available to the public through the Trademark Document Retrieval (TDR) and the Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) databases on the USPTO Web site. This plan allows the USPTO and the public sufficient time to review and determine the accuracy of the record in TICRS/TDR/TSDR and request any needed corrections, thereby providing assurance that the record is correct. The plan also significantly reduces the costs currently associated with indefinitely warehousing duplicative paper records. Paper filings with electronic and digital media attachments are not subject to the one-year retention period and will

remain retrievable, consistent with past practice.

After the expiration of the one-year retention period, the USPTO will dispose of the paper records, unless a request to correct the electronic record in TICRS remains outstanding. Requests to correct the electronic records in TICRS should be emailed to "*TM-TDR-Correct@uspto.gov*" using the subject line "Electronic Record Correction" at least one month prior to the expiration of the one-year retention period to allow sufficient time to process the request. The request should include: (1) The serial number or registration number; (2) the date and nature of the paper document filed; (3) a description of the error(s) in TICRS/TDR/TSDR; (4) the name and telephone number of the applicant or owner; and (5) a replacement copy of the paper document, if available. The USPTO will review the request and update the record within 21 days of receipt, if appropriate. The applicant or owner may check TICRS or TDR/TSDR approximately three weeks after submitting the request to verify entry of the requested changes.

Dated: January 17, 2012.

David J. Kappos,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2012-1437 Filed 1-24-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2011-0032]

Establishment of a One-Year Retention Period for Patent-Related Papers That Have Been Scanned Into the Image File Wrapper System or the Supplemental Complex Repository for Examiners

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a notice on August 29, 2011 requesting comments on a proposal to establish a retention period of one year for patent-related papers that have been scanned into the Image File Wrapper system (IFW) or the Supplemental Complex Repository for Examiners (SCORE). The USPTO has considered the comment and is establishing a one-year retention period that: (1) Began on September 1, 2011, for papers scanned into IFW or SCORE prior to September 1, 2011; or