

submitted by the above-named individual. 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 of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

Permit No. 65–1652–00 authorizes Dr. Kraus to conduct research involving monitoring the health and status of North Atlantic right whales, including aerial and shipboard surveys, photo-identification, remote biopsy sampling, attachment of scientific instruments, and blubber ultrasound measurements. Up to 300 whales per year may be taken for up to five years.

*File No. 775–1600.* On October 27, 2000, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 64432) that a request for a scientific research permit to take seven species of baleen whale, 21 species of odontocetes, and four species of pinnipeds had been submitted by the above-named organization. Permit No. 775–1600–00 was issued on March 6, 2001 (66 FR 14135) and subsequently amended six times for various reasons. Permit No. 775–1600–00 and its subsequent amendments prohibited biopsy sampling of right whale calves less than six months old and females accompanied by such calves. The Permit Holders requested reconsideration of this prohibition and provided additional information in support of their request to biopsy sample calves of any age (except newborns) and females accompanied by such calves. NMFS did not publish a notice in the **Federal Register** regarding receipt of the request because the original application, which was available for public review and comment, requested such authorization. The requested permit amendment 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 of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

Issuance of this permit and permit amendment, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit and permit amendment (1) were 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) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: March 1, 2004.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

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

[FR Doc. 04–5189 Filed 3–5–04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030204A]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 881–1745

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC), P.O. Box 1329, Seward, Alaska 99664 (Dr. Shannon Atkinson, Principal Investigator), has applied for a permit to take Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before April 7, 2004.

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

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713–2289; fax (301)713–0376; and Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668; phone (907)586–7221; fax (907)586–7249.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 881–1745

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Amy Sloan or Dr. Tammy Adams, (301)713–2289.

**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.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222–226).

The ASLC requests a 5–year permit to continue its research on three permanently captive Steller sea lions held by the ASLC to investigate stress responses, endocrine and immune system function, and seasonal variations to normal biological parameters such as mass and body composition, and to conduct research and development of external tags and attachments for future deployment in the field. These animals will also be used to develop and test less intrusive methods that can be used in the field. Authorization is requested: (1) for attachment of scientific instruments, stomach temperature telemetry, stable isotope administration via food or intravenously, oral administration of deuterium labeled vitamins, and video/photographic/radiographic/digital/thermal imaging; (2) for collecting morphometric data, blubber ultrasound measurements, blood samples, epidermal and mucosal swabs, blubber biopsies, and bioenergetic and metabolic measurements; (3) for conducting bioelectrical impedance analysis, hormone stimulation trials, food trials/dietary manipulation/fasting studies, underwater foraging and drag trials; and (4) for determining body condition via D20 injections and total blood volume via Evans blue dye injection.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education 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 this particular 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.

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: March 3, 2004.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

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

[FR Doc. 04-5188 Filed 3-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Air Force

#### Notice of Intent To Perform an Environmental Analysis for the Removal of Used Depleted Uranium Targets From Nevada Test and Training Range

**AGENCY:** United States Air Force, Air Combat Command.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Removal of Used Depleted Uranium Targets from the Nevada Test And Training Range (NTTR).

**SUMMARY:** The United States Air Force is issuing this Notice of intent (NOI) to announce that it is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) to describe the proposed action for removal of used depleted uranium (DU) targets used by A-10 aircraft firing the 30-Millimeter PGU-14/B API Armor Piercing Incendiary round containing sub-caliber high density DU penetrators from the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR). This NOI describes the Air Force's proposed scoping process and identifies the Air Force's point of contact.

The proposed EA will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347), the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and the Air Force's Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) (Air Force Instruction 32-7061 as promulgated at 32 CFR 989) to determine the potential environmental impacts of removing targets formerly used by A-10 aircraft for DU testing and training at the NTTR.

As part of the proposal, the Air Force will analyze various disposal alternatives for DU contaminated targets and debris currently located in the 60-Series Ranges (Target 63-10) in the Southwest area of NTTR. Because the targets and debris are in various conditions and have varied levels of contamination the Air Force requires flexibility in considering alternatives to dismantle, transport, and dispose/reuse the targets. The targets to be disposed fall into two basic categories: (1) Targets that can be decontaminated because the

DU exists as surface contamination or the DU penetrator remains in the entry hole; and (2) targets that can not be decontaminated because the DU has fused into large areas of the target and it no longer qualifies as a usable target.

**DATES:** The Air Force will conduct a series of scoping meetings to receive public input on alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the EA and to solicit public input concerning the scope of the proposed action and alternatives. The schedule and locations of the scoping meetings are as follows:

March 23, 2004, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Sunrise Library, 5400 Harris Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada

March 24, 2004, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Indian Spring Community Center, 719 West Gretta Lane, Indian Springs, Nevada

March 25, 2004, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Bob Ruud Community Center, Main Hall, 150 North Highway 160, Pahrump, Nevada

The Air Force will accept comments at any time during the environmental analysis process. However, to ensure the Air Force considers relevant scoping issues in a timely fashion, all comments should be forwarded to the address below, no later than April 20, 2004. If during the preparation of the EA, the Air Force concludes an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is warranted, comments received during this scoping period will be considered in the preparation of the EIS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Sheryl Parker, HQ ACC/CEVP, 129 Andrews St., Suite 102, Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769, (757) 764-9334

**Pamela Fitzgerald,**

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-5131 Filed 3-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-05-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; Overview Information; Early Reading First; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.359A/B.*

**Dates:**

Applications Available: March 8, 2004 (pre- and full applications).

Deadline for Transmittal of Pre-Applications: April 22, 2004.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 1, 2004 (for applicants invited to submit full applications only).

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: August 30, 2004.

**Eligible Applicants:** The term "eligible applicant" means the following: (a) One or more local educational agencies (LEA) that are eligible to receive a subgrant under the Reading First program (title I, part B, subpart 1, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA)), (b) one or more public or private organizations or agencies (including faith-based organizations) located in a community served by an eligible LEA; or (c) one or more of the eligible LEAs, applying in collaboration with one or more of the eligible organizations or agencies. To qualify under (b) of this paragraph, the organization's or agency's application must be on behalf of one or more programs that serve preschool-age children (such as a Head Start program, a child care program, or a family literacy program such as Even Start, or a lab school at a university), unless the organization or agency itself operates a preschool program.

**Estimated Available Funds:** \$94,439,000.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$750,000-\$4,500,000.

**Estimated Average Size of Awards:** \$2,500,000.

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 21-125.

**Note:** The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

**Project Period:** Up to 36 months.  
Full Text of Announcement

### I. Funding Opportunity Description

**Purpose of Program:** This program supports local efforts to enhance the oral language, cognitive, and early reading skills of preschool-age children, especially those from low-income families, through strategies, materials, and professional development that are grounded in scientifically based reading research.

**Priorities:** Under this competition we are particularly interested in applications that address the following invitational and competitive priorities.

**Invitational Priorities:** For FY 2004 these priorities are invitational priorities. Under 35 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets these invitational priorities a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

These priorities are:

#### Invitational Priority 1—Intensity

The Secretary is especially interested in preschool programs that operate full-time, full-year early childhood