

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Sanctuary was designated in September 1980, and consists of 1,252 square nautical miles of open ocean and near shore habitat approximately 25 miles off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, encompassing the waters surrounding San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands from mean high tide to six nautical miles offshore. The NMSP's primary goal is the protection of the Sanctuary's natural and cultural resources contained within its boundaries. The NMSP uses a variety of non-regulatory and regulatory management measures to protect its resources. The Sanctuary is an area of national significance because of its exceptional natural beauty and marine and cultural resources.

In April 1999, the Sanctuary and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) developed a joint Federal and State partnership to consider establishing marine reserves within the Sanctuary. Marine reserves are one of a variety of resource management tools used to manage and protect marine resources. The Channel Islands Marine Reserves Process was initiated in July of 1999, when the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) created a multi-stakeholder Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG) to seek agreement on the potential establishment of marine reserves within the Sanctuary. Included in the Channel Islands Marine Reserves Process were a SAC designated Science Advisory Panel and a NOAA led Socio-economic Team made up of blue ribbon scientists, academics and practitioners. Extensive scientific and socioeconomic data were collected in support of the reserves process. From July 1999 to May 2001, the MRWG met monthly to receive, weigh, and integrate advice from technical advisors and the public and to develop a recommendation for the SAC. In May 2001, the results of the Channel Islands Marine Reserves Process were forwarded to the SAC, including the MRWG consensus agreements, areas of disagreement, Science Panel advice and socioeconomic analysis. A composite map with two reserve network options ranging from 12 to 29 percent of the Sanctuary was also forwarded. In June 2001, the SAC transmitted the full public record of the MRWG and the SAC to the CINMS and CDFG, and charged the agencies with crafting a final recommendation for the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC).

Sanctuary and CDFG staff continued to work with stakeholders in crafting a recommendation. On August 24, 2001 the Sanctuary and CDFG forwarded the results of the Channel Islands Reserves

Process and recommended to the FGC a network of reserves and protected areas that would include approximately 25% of the Sanctuary.

The CDFG prepared environmental review documents pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which included an analysis of a range of alternative reserves networks, including identifying the Sanctuary and CDFG recommended option as the preferred alternative. On October 23, 2002, the FGC approved the preferred alternative and the establishment of a network of marine reserves and protected areas within State waters of the Sanctuary (approximately 10%). The FGC decision was made based on the culmination of the Channel Islands Marine Reserves Process and the CDFG and NOAA supported alternative for a network of marine reserves in the Sanctuary. The State's network went into effect on April 9, 2003.

The NMSP is initiating a process to consider the establishment of marine reserves within the Sanctuary to complement the State's network of reserves and protected areas. This review process will build upon the nearly four years of work to date on this matter, including the information and analyses contained in the State's CEQA environmental documents. The NMSP anticipates completion of the environmental review process and concomitant documents will require approximately eighteen to twenty-four months.

The NMSP will prepare an environmental impact statement, proposed regulations, and any proposed modifications to the Sanctuary's designation document, as warranted. The environmental impact statement will examine a range of management and regulatory alternatives associated with consideration of marine reserves within the Sanctuary. Any change to the Sanctuary's terms of designation will be pursuant to the requirements of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, including necessary consultations with Federal and State agencies, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), and others, and submission of the environmental impact statement, proposed regulations and any proposed changes to the designation document to Congress, the Governor of the State of California, and the public for comment. Further, the PFMC will be provided the opportunity to prepare draft Sanctuary fishing regulations for the Exclusive Economic Zone portion of the Sanctuary for any marine reserve proposal. Finally, any change to a term of designation would not apply to State waters if the

Governor objects during the requisite review period.

For a complete history of the Channel Islands Marine Reserves Process and the State's Environmental Documents please see [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/channel\\_islands/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/channel_islands/) and/or <http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/marineres/main.html>. The same information can also be obtained by contacting John Ugoretz with California Department of Fish and Game, (805) 560-6758 and/or the contact information below.

The Sanctuary is also revising its 1983 Management Plan. A Final EIS and Management Plan are expected by the end of 2003. Please see <http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/marineres/manplan.html> for more information on this independent process.

#### **Public Scoping Meetings: Dates and Locations**

The NMSP will conduct three public scoping meetings to gather information and other oral or written comments from individuals, organizations, and government agencies on the scope, types and significance of issues related to consideration of marine reserves in the Sanctuary. These meetings will be conducted in a format to maximize the opportunity for all attendees to provide public comment. The dates, times and location of the meetings are as follows:

(1) Thursday, June 5, 2003, 6:30-9 p.m., Orvene S. Carpenter Community Center, 550 Park Avenue Pt. Hueneme, CA.

(2) Thursday, June 12, 2003, 6:30-9 p.m., Santa Barbara Public Library, Faulkner Gallery, 40 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA.

(3) Friday, July 18, 2003, 1:30-4 p.m., Four Points by Sheraton, 1050 Schooner Drive, Ventura, CA. This meeting will be held with the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Dated: May 16, 2003.

**Jamison S. Hawkins,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.*

[FR Doc. 03-12815 Filed 5-21-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-08-M**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

#### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 050903A]

#### **Marine Mammals; File No. 369-1440-01**

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dr. Bruce R. Mate, Oregon State University, Newport, Oregon 97365-5296, has been issued an amendment to Permit No. 369-1440-01 to take various species of large whales and opportunistically take by Level B harassment other species of marine mammals, for purposes of scientific research.

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

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

Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (508)281-9346; fax (508)281-9371; and

Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (813)570-5301; fax (813)570-5517.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ruth Johnson 301/713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 28, 2003, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (68 FR 4178) that an amendment of Permit No. 369-1440-01, issued April 19, 1999 (64 FR 19135), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of 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 threatened and endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.226).

The amendment authorizes the applicant to tag and biopsy sample fin whales in international water in the Mediterranean Sea and extends the expiration date through October 2004.

Issuance of this amendment, 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: May 13, 2003.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**  
*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division,  
Office of Protected Resources, National  
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-12886 Filed 5-21-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Technology Administration

[Docket No.: 030423100-3100-01]

#### The United States-Greek Initiative for Technology Cooperation With the Balkans (ITCB)'s Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Technology Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for nominations for joint council member.

**SUMMARY:** The Technology Administration invites nominations of individuals for appointment to a vacancy on the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Advisory Council established under a Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of Commerce and the Greek Ministry of National Economy concerning technology cooperation with the Balkans. The Technology Administration also invites nominations for appointment of three alternate Joint Council members. The Technology Administration will consider all nominations received in response to this notice.

**DATES:** Nominations must be received at the address below by no later than June 30, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit nominations to Ken Ferguson, ITCB Program Officer, Office of Technology Policy, Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4411, 14th and Constitution Avenues, NW., Washington, DC 20230. Nominations may also be submitted by fax or e-mail to Ken Ferguson, ITCB Program Officer at 202-219-3310 or [kferguson@ta.doc.gov](mailto:kferguson@ta.doc.gov) if followed up with a hard copy sent by mail or courier.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ken Ferguson, ITCB Program Officer, telephone: 202-482-0150; fax: 202-219-3310, e-mail: [kferguson@ta.doc.gov](mailto:kferguson@ta.doc.gov).

#### Goals of the Memorandum of Understanding

On January 17, 1998, the United States Department of Commerce and the

Greek Ministry of National Economy (hereinafter known as the "Participants") entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning technology cooperation with the Balkans, to be known as "The United States-Greek Initiative for Technology Cooperation with the Balkans" (ITCB). A Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Advisory Council (hereinafter "the Joint Council") operates under the MOU.

The Participants recognize that working together to foster collaborative and mutually beneficial technology cooperation with countries in the Balkan region will provide economic benefits to the Balkan region, the United States and Greece. The goal of the Participants is to foster collaboration among public and private entities in the Participants' countries with public and private entities in the Balkan region in order to enhance scientific and technological capabilities in the Balkan region, enhance the relationship between U.S. and Greek public and private sector entities, and promote the development of stable, free market economies in the Balkan region. Emphasis is placed on both the fostering of the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge and personnel, and on building private sector technology capacities of Balkan ITCB member states through partnership with U.S. and Greek business. For the purposes of the MOU, countries in the Balkan region that are currently members of the ITCB are: Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Membership may expand to other countries in the region that the Participants may mutually agree to include.

#### Cooperative Activities

Cooperative activities under this MOU include: Coordinated and joint research and technology projects, studies, and investigations; joint technological courses, workshops, conferences and symposia; exchanges of science and technology information and documentation in the context of cooperative activities; exchanges of scientists, specialists, and researchers; exchanges or sharing of equipment or materials; and other forms of scientific and technological cooperation that may be deemed appropriate. One of the goals is to create three-way partnerships between private and public technology companies, non-governmental organizations and other institutions from Greece, the United States and Balkan member states of the ITCB. Cooperative activities should reflect technological strengths in the United