

will, within 45 days, determine whether these imports are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. industry. If the ITC determines that material injury or threat of material injury does not exist, the proceeding will be terminated and all securities posted will be refunded or canceled. If the ITC determines that such injury does exist, the Department will issue an antidumping duty order directing the Customs Service to assess antidumping duties on all imports of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the effective date of the suspension of liquidation.

This determination is published pursuant to sections 735(d) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: April 2, 1999.

Richard W. Moreland,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032399A]

Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals; Endangered and Threatened Fish and Wildlife; Cook Inlet Beluga Whales

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petitions.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of two petitions to list the Cook Inlet population of beluga whales under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and one petition to designate the population as depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). NMFS also announces that it has determined that the petitioned actions may be warranted.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the petitions should be addressed to Chief, Marine Mammal Division (PR2), Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division Chief, Protected Resources Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, (907) 586-7235; Brad Smith/Barbara Mahoney, Protected Resources Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, (907) 271-5006; or Margot Bohan/Dean Wilkinson, Office of

Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407) contains provisions for interested parties to petition for a species or stock to be designated as "depleted" (16 U.S.C. 1383(b)). Section 4 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and 50 CFR part 424 contain provisions allowing interested parties to petition for a species (including any subspecies or, in the case of vertebrates, a distinct population segment which interbreeds when mature) to be listed as threatened or endangered. If a petition presents substantial information, a review is conducted to determine if a species should be designated as depleted or listed as endangered or threatened. Determinations are made based on the best available scientific data.

Petitions Received

On January 21, 1999, NMFS received a petition from the State of Alaska to designate the Cook Inlet beluga stock as depleted. On March 3, 1999, NMFS received a petition, on behalf of Joel Blatchford, a Native Alaskan beluga hunter, the Alaska Center for the Environment, the Alaska Community Action on Toxics, the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, the Center of Biological Diversity, the Center for Marine Conservation, the National Audubon Society, and the Trustees for Alaska to list Cook Inlet belugas as endangered under the ESA on an emergency basis. On March 10, 1999, NMFS received another petition from the Animal Welfare Institute to change the status of Cook Inlet beluga whales to depleted under the MMPA and endangered under the ESA.

Presentation of Substantial Information

NMFS has determined that each of these petitions presents substantial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. A copy of the petitions and information submitted with the petitions is available upon request (see **ADDRESSES**).

NMFS recently commenced a review of the status of the Cook Inlet population of beluga whales, in collaboration with the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee and the Cook Inlet Marine Mammal Council. The agency solicited information and public comments in conjunction with the status review to ensure that the review is complete and is based on the best available information. Completion of the status review is expected in early April. NMFS will evaluate the merits of listing of the Cook Inlet beluga whale as

threatened or endangered under the ESA based on the findings of this status review. NMFS will also evaluate the merits of designating the Cook Inlet beluga whale as depleted under the MMPA based on this review.

Dated: April 2, 1999.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032499A]

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Offshore Oil and Gas Activities in the Beaufort Sea

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

ACTION: Request for panel nominations.

SUMMARY: The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHAs) issued thereunder, to prescribe, where applicable, the requirements for an independent peer review of research and monitoring plans for those activities that take marine mammals incidental to the activity and where the activity may affect the availability of a species/stock of marine mammal for taking for subsistence uses in Arctic waters. In addition, NMFS regulations require similar review for Letters of Authorization (LOAs) issued under the MMPA for activities in Arctic waters. Because of increasing activities and potential MMPA authorizations in Arctic waters, NMFS wishes to expand its present list of peer review participants. NMFS is therefore accepting nominations from the public for consideration as potential reviewers of monitoring and research plans in the Arctic.

DATES: Nominations must be received no later than May 24, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be addressed to Donna Wieting, Acting Chief, Marine Mammal Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225. Additional information may be obtained by writing to this address or by telephoning the contact listed here.