

notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 16, 2005.

**Emily Menashes,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E5-1214 Filed 3-18-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031105H]

#### Endangered Species; File No. 1295

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application for modification

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center (Responsible Official- Dr. John Boreman), 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1097, has requested a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1295.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before April 20, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** The modification request 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)427-2521; and Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9328; fax (978)281-9394.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted 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 modification request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov*. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1295.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Patrick Opay or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject modification to Permit No. 1295, issued on June 4, 2001 (66 FR 29934) is requested under the authority of 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 and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

Permit No. 1295 authorizes the permit holder to take loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and green (*Chelonia mydas*) sea turtles for scientific research. The current permit authorizes the sampling of turtles taken during bottom trawl, scallop, acoustic and Illex squid surveys; research designed to develop and test methods to reduce incidental bycatch of sea turtles that occurs in a commercial pound net fishery of Virginia; sampling during research designed to develop and test methods to reduce incidental bycatch of sea turtles that occurs in scallop drag fisheries; and the sampling of sea turtles captured during the NMFS Northeast Fishery Science Center's biennial shark longline surveys. The permit holder requests authorization to extend the duration of the pound net experiment from 42 days to 55 days. The permit holder also requests an increase in the number of annual lethal takes of loggerhead sea turtles from 2 to 4, the number of annual lethal takes of Kemp's ridley sea turtles from 3 to 6, and the number of annual lethal takes of green sea turtles from 0 to 1. The permit holder also asks for a total annual take increase of leatherbacks from 1 to 2 including an increase in allowed annual lethal takes from 0 to 1, and the addition of 1 hawksbill annual take that may be lethal. This research permit expires May 31, 2006. The requested modifications are necessary so the permit holder can continue bycatch reduction research relating to the pound net fishery.

Dated: March 16, 2005.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

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

[FR Doc. 05-5540 Filed 3-18-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030905E]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 978-1567

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Paul Nachtigall, Ph.D., University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, P.O. Box 1346, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 978-1567-00.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment 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)427-2521; and

Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808)973-2935; fax (808)973-2941.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Amy Sloan or Jennifer Skidmore, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

This amendment (Permit No. 978-1567-01) extends the expiration date of the permit from June 30, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: March 16, 2005.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

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

[FR Doc. 05-5538 Filed 3-18-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030905D]

#### Marine Mammals; Files No. 522-1785 and 633-1778

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of applications.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that  
two applicants have applied in due form  
for a permit to take marine mammals for  
scientific research purposes or for an  
amendment to an existing permit.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail  
comments must be received on or before  
April 20, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** The applications 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)427-2521;

File No. 633-1778 - Assistant  
Regional Administrator for Protected  
Resources, Northeast Region, NMFS,  
One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA  
01930-2298; phone (978)281-9328; fax  
(987)281-9394; and

Files 522-1758 and 633-1778 -  
Assistant Regional Administrator for  
Protected Resources, Southeast Region,  
NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St.  
Petersburg, FL 33701, phone (727)824-  
5312; fax (727)824-5309.

Written comments or requests for a  
public hearing on these applications  
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)427-2521, provided  
the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy  
submitted by mail and postmarked no

later than the closing date of the  
comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by  
e-mail. The mailbox address for  
providing email comments is  
*NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov*. Include  
in the subject line of the e-mail  
comment the following document  
identifier: File No. 522-1785 or File No.  
633-1778.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Ruth Johnson (*Ruth.Johnson@noaa.gov*)  
or Carrie Hubard  
(*Carrie.W.Hubard@noaa.gov*) or phone  
(301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The  
subject permits are 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).

Dr. Randall Wells (File No. 522-1785)  
requests a permit to take bottlenose  
dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) for  
scientific research. The take would  
include capture, examination, sample,  
mark, tag and release of up to 120  
individual bottlenose dolphins in the  
shallow coastal waters of central west  
Florida and remotely biopsy sample 100  
dolphins annually for five years. This  
work is a continuation of research  
activities since 1984. The activities  
would provide crucial background  
information on individual  
identification, sex, age, reproductive  
status, and genetic relationships to  
support ongoing long-term observational  
studies of population structure,  
population dynamics, life history, social  
structure, genetic structure including  
paternity patterns, and human  
interactions. Tissue samples and  
veterinary examinations would support  
investigation of biomarkers of  
environmental contaminants and their  
effects as part of an ongoing study in  
collaboration with NMFS. Other  
components of the collaborative  
program involve studies of health  
assessment, contaminant loads and  
associated medical effects, immune  
system function, detection of  
brevetoxin, assessments of thermal  
status, identification of prey species,  
nutritional status, and predation events,  
studies of whistle development and  
function, measures of hearing ability,  
and behavior associated with sound  
production.

Center for Coastal Studies (File No.  
633-1778), (Julie Robbins (PI), requests  
a permit to approach, photograph (1600  
animals) and collect tissue samples (200  
animals) from humpback whales  
(*Megaptera novaeangliae*). Humpbacks  
would be biopsy sampled up to three  
times per year. Activities would take  
place in all U.S. waters of the North  
Atlantic Ocean, but would focus on the  
U.S. and Canadian Gulf of Maine. The  
Center for Coastal Studies maintains a  
long-term catalog and life history  
database for the Gulf of Maine  
humpback population. In the next five  
years, those data are expected to be  
applied to the following areas of  
research: (1) to monitor trends in  
abundance and vital rates, (2) to study  
movement and habitat use patterns,  
including individual exchange with  
other populations, (3) to study  
entanglement rates and human-related  
impacts, (4) to perform molecular  
genetic investigations into demography  
and reproductive success, (5) to perform  
hormone-based studies into  
reproduction and neonatal mortality,  
and (6) to perform stable isotope  
investigations into foraging ecology and  
nutritional stress. Authorization is also  
requested to import, export and re-  
export tissue samples between the U.S.  
and Canada and collect sloughed skin.  
Additionally, six other cetacean species  
would be approached and biopsy  
sampled on an opportunistic basis  
during the proposed research. Samples  
would be used to increase scientific  
understanding of local populations and  
to clarify oceanic population structure.  
The six species include approach,  
photo-id and biopsy sample once up to  
25 each of fin whales (*Balaenoptera  
physalus*), minke whales (*Balaenoptera  
acutorostrata*), sei whales (*Balaenoptera  
borealis*), blue whales (*Balaenoptera  
musculus*), sperm whales (*Physeter  
macrocephalus*), and 50 each of killer  
whales (*Orcinus orca*).

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 15, 2005.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

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

[FR Doc. 05-5539 Filed 3-18-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S