

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042094B]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for experimental fishing permits.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces receipt of experimental fishing permit (EFP) applications from Terra Marine Research and Education (TMRE), and Coastal Villages Fishing Cooperative (CVFC) and Golden Age Fisheries (GAF). TMRE requests approval of an EFP to retain salmon caught incidentally in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) during the 1994 pollock "B" and the 1995 pollock "A" season fisheries and the 1995 BSAI directed Pacific cod trawl fishery. The purpose is to assess whether the quantities of salmon donated to a foodbank program are sufficient to justify the costs associated with the processing and shipping of the product. CVFC and GAF request approval of an EFP to assess the feasibility of the establishment of an inshore fishery in the Kuskokwim Bay in the BSAI by the residents of this area.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to and copies of the EFP applications are available from Steven Pennoyer, Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (Attn: Lori Gravel).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen R. Varosi, Fisheries Management Division, NMFS (907-586-7230).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and its implementing regulations specify that EFPs may be issued to authorize fishing that otherwise would be prohibited by the FMP and regulations. The procedures for issuing permits are contained in the regulations at § 675.6.

The EFP applications submitted by TMRE, CVFC, AND GAF have been accepted for review and copies were forwarded to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). The Council reviewed these applications at its April 18-22, 1994, meeting, which was held in Anchorage, AK.

TMRE proposes to assess the feasibility of a voluntary donation of salmon caught incidentally in the directed 1994 pollock "B" and the 1995 pollock "A" season fisheries and the 1995 BSAI directed Pacific cod trawl

fishery for the purpose of distribution to foodbanks. CVFC and GAF propose to assess the commercial feasibility of fishing for groundfish in the Kuskokwim Bay by the residents of this area by establishing a 500 metric ton allocation of groundfish in this area during the period May 1 through September 30, 1994. Vessels participating in these EFPs will accommodate a NMFS-certified observer at all times with costs paid for by operators of vessels fishing for the applicants. Information regarding project design, disposition of fish harvested, and other matters is contained in the applications.

Copies of the applications may be obtained from and comments should be addressed to the NMFS Regional Director (see ADDRESSES).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 28, 1994.

Joe P. Clem,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 94-10639 Filed 4-29-94; 11:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

[I.D. 040794D]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for a scientific research permit (P281C).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that S. Jonathan Stern, Marine Mammal Research Program, Texas A&M University, 4700 Avenue U, Building 303, Galveston, Texas, has applied in due form for a permit to take minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), blue whales (*B. musculus*), fin whales (*B. physalus*), sei whales (*B. borealis*), humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), and killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 3, 1994.

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

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Director, Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213, (310/980-4001);

Director, Northwest Region, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE., BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, (206/526-6150); and

Director, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21688, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, (907/586-7221).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910, within 30 days of the publication of this notice. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register, the Secretary of Commerce is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested 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 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

The applicant proposes to take by inadvertent harassment, up to several times daily, a maximum of 1,000 minke whales, 400 blue whales, 100 fin whales, 50 sei whales, 600 humpback whales, 500 gray whales, and 300 killer whales per year for 5 years for photo-identification purposes. A minimum population size estimate for the minke whale stocks under investigation will be generated from the total of individually identified whales. Of the number requested above, 150 minke whales, and 30 individuals of each of the remaining baleen whale species are requested for biopsy darting to collect blubber and skin samples to examine trophic level relationships with prey and among whale species, and to conduct genetic analysis. Individually identified whales are intended to be sampled once every 30 days, but not more than 12 times. A maximum of five individuals from each pod of killer whales encountered in the Gulf of the Farallones will be biopsied only once. The research will be centered in and around the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary from Bodega Bay to Point Sur, California, but will range opportunistically from the Gulf of