

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-351-806]

Silicon Metal From Brazil; Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; Time Limit

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Extension of Time Limit for Preliminary Results of Review.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is extending the time limit for the preliminary results of the administrative review of the antidumping duty order on silicon metal from Brazil. The review covers five manufacturer/exporters of the subject merchandise to the United States for the period July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 9, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Howard Smith or Wendy Frankel, Office 4, Office of AD/CVD Enforcement, Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230, telephone: (202) 482-5193, or (202) 482-5849, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Because it is not practicable to complete the preliminary results of this review within the initial time limit established by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (245 days after the last day of the anniversary month), pursuant to section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), the Department is extending the time limit for completion of the preliminary results until July 31, 1999. See the Memorandum from Holly A. Kuga to Robert S. LaRussa, dated January 8, 1999, on file in the Central Records Unit located in room B-099 of the main Department of Commerce building.

This extension is in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)(3)(A)).

Dated: January 19, 1999.

Holly A. Kuga,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-3138 Filed 2-8-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[I.D. 012599D]

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement Regarding Proposed Issuance of an Incidental Take Permit to Simpson Timber Company, Northwest Operations, for Forest Management in Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor Counties, Washington

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce; Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Interior

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, NMFS and USFWS (the Services) intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to the proposed issuance of an incidental take permit (Permit) to Simpson Timber Company, Northwest Operations (Simpson), for take of endangered and threatened species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). As required by the act, the applicant is preparing a Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan). The Permit application is related to forest management and timber harvest on a portion of Simpson's fee-owned timberlands in Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor Counties, Washington. Simpson intends to request an Permit for the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), and the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Simpson may also seek coverage for three fish species proposed for listing under the Act and approximately 60 currently unlisted fish and wildlife species under specific provisions of the Permit should these species be listed in the future.

The Services are furnishing this notice in order to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions and to announce the initiation of a 30-day public scoping period during which other agencies and the public are invited to provide written comments on the scope of issues to be included in the EIS.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before March 11, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for additional information should be sent to

Kathy Cushman, Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive, SE, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503, telephone (360) 753-9000; or Mike Parton, National Marine Fisheries Service, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 103, Lacey, Washington 98503, telephone (360) 753-4650.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Simpson owns and manages approximately 267,000 acres of commercial timberland in Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor counties, Washington. Simpson proposes to manage, pursuant to the Plan, approximately 214,000 acres of its Washington properties located north of Highway 8 and west of Highway 101, and possible future inclusions of additional lands within 10 miles. The Plan area extends into the southern foothills of the Olympic Mountains and across the Wynoochee River Valley to the City of Aberdeen's Wishkah Watershed. Management activities include timber harvest and other forest management activities.

Some of Simpson's management activities have the potential to impact species subject to protection under the Act. Section 10(a)(2)(B) of the Act contains provisions for the issuance of incidental take permits to non-Federal land owners for the take of endangered and threatened species, provided the take is incidental to otherwise lawful activities and will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild. An applicant for a Permit under section 10 of the Act must prepare and submit to the Services for approval a Plan containing a strategy for minimizing and mitigating all take associated with the proposed activities to the maximum extent practicable. The applicant must also ensure that adequate funding for the Plan will be provided.

Simpson has initiated discussions with the Services regarding the possibility of a Permit and associated Plan for their activities on their land to be covered by a Permit. Activities proposed for Permit coverage include mechanized timber harvest; log transportation; road construction, maintenance, and abandonment; site preparation; tree planting; fertilization; silvicultural thinning; experimental silviculture; controlled burns; wildfire suppression; stream restoration; and the harvest and sale of minor forest products. The Plan and Permit would also cover certain monitoring activities and related scientific experiments in the Plan area.

The Services will conduct an environmental review of the Plan and prepare an EIS. The environmental

review will analyze the proposal as well as a full range of reasonable alternatives and the associated impacts of each. The Services are currently in the process of developing alternatives for analysis. Under a No Action Alternative, incidental take permits would not be issued, and Simpson would continue a forest management program, which avoids take of federally listed species. The applicant's Plan alternative proposes that the Services issue incidental take permits and that Simpson would implement the Plan on 214,000 acres of Simpson's Washington timberlands. Another alternative proposes blending the standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan and the proposed Plan. Under this alternative, the Services would issue incidental take permits, and Simpson would manage their lands in accordance with standards and guidelines less restrictive than the Northwest Forest Plan but which exceed those of the proposed Plan. A fourth alternative proposes that Simpson manage their lands in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan. Under this alternative, the Services would issue incidental take permits, and Simpson would manage their land accordingly.

Comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties to ensure that the full range of issues related to these proposed actions are addressed and that all significant issues are identified. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the environmental review should be directed to the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (see ADDRESSES).

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) and of other appropriate Federal laws and regulations and policies and procedures of the Services for compliance with those regulations. It is estimated that the draft EIS will be available for public review during the second quarter of 1999.

Dated: January 19, 1999.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.

Dated: February 2, 1999.

Kevin Collins,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012999C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 77-4#2

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1097, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 917.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before March 11, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s): Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, (978/281-9250); and

Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813/570-5312).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment 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. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Sara Shapiro 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 917, issued on May 12, 1994 (59 FR 25872), as amended July 12, 1995 (60 FR 37054) and November 24, 1997 (62 FR 48821) 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 222.23).

Permit No. 917 authorizes the permit holder to conduct a number of studies on several cetacean species as well as gray and harbor seals in the northeastern U.S. and Canadian waters. The research activities include: Vessel surveys, aerial surveys and photogrammetry, photo-identification studies, and the collection of biopsies.

The permit holder requests authorization to: (1) increase the number of biopsies for most species; (2) biopsy mother/calf pairs; (3) expand the study area to include all waters of the North Atlantic, from the equator to latitude 66.5 degrees North; (4) approach for non-invasive ultra sound measurements; (5) take Bryde's whales, harp and hooded seals; (6) capture, tag and sample harbor seals; (7) up to 3 accidental mortalities of harbor seals; (8) import/export samples for genetic studies; and (9) tag sperm whales.

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

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: February 2, 1999.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources.

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