

and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

The public is invited to comment on the following application for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application was submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

PRT-777239

Applicant: Ronald J. Jameson, U.S.G.S., Western Ecological Research Center, Corvallis, OR

Permit Type: Take for scientific research.

Name and Number of Animals: Northern Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris lutris*).

Summary of Activity to be

Authorized: The applicant requests an amendment to his permit to take an additional 33 sea otters for the purpose of scientific research to continue his study of the animal's ability to reoccupy historical habitats and the possible impacts of greater contaminant loads.

Source of Marine Mammals: Wild sea otters along the northern coast of Washington State.

Period of Activity: Up to 5 years, if issued.

PRT-018196

Applicant: International Animal Consulting Group, Inc., Shadow Hills, CA

Permit Type: Take (from the wild) and export for public display.

Name and Number of Animals: Northern Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris lutris*) 1.2.

Summary of Activity to be

Authorized: The applicant requests a permit to live capture and export for public education and breeding 1.2 juvenile animals to the Toba Aquarium, Toba 3-3-6 MIE Pref., Japan.

Source of Marine Mammals: Wild sea otters along the coast of Alaska.

Period of Activity: Up to 5 years, if issued.

PRT-018197

Applicant: International Animal Consulting Group, Inc., Shadow Hills, CA

Permit Type: Take (from the wild) and export for public display.

Name and Number of Animals: Northern Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris lutris*) 0.2.

Summary of Activity To Be

Authorized: The applicant requests a permit to live capture and export for public education and breeding 0.2 juvenile animals to the IZU-MITO Sea Paradise, Numazu Shizuoka, Japan.

Source of Marine Mammals: Wild sea otters along the coast of Alaska.

Period of Activity: Up to 5 years, if issued.

PRT-020346

Applicant: Leviathan Legacy, Inc., 1318 SW 14th Street, Boca Raton, FL

Permit Type: Take for scientific research.

Name and Number of Animals: West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*).

Summary of Activity To Be

Authorized: The applicant requests a permit to study the reactions of West Indian manatees to and possible impacts from controlled boat approaches, underwater acoustic projections of approaching boats, and narrow beam manatee alerting sounds.

Source of Marine Mammals: 50-100 wild manatees occurring in waters adjacent to Buzzard Island in Crystal River, Florida.

Period of Activity: Up to 5 years, if issued.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Office of Management Authority is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Written data or comments, requests for copies of the complete application, or requests for a public hearing on this application should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281 and must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

Dated: December 13, 1999.

Pamela Hall,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 99-32718 Filed 12-16-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Emergency Exemption; Issuance

On December 7, 1999, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a permit (PRT-020339) to the US Fish and Wildlife Service Jacksonville Florida Field Office, Jacksonville, Florida, to import a juvenile Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*). The 30-day public comment period required by section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act was waived. The Service determined that an emergency affecting the health and life of this turtle existed and that no reasonable alternative was available to the applicant, for the following reasons:

a. This turtle was found stranded outside of its normal range on a beach in Wales, UK, on December 1, 1999, and was being housed at the Oceanarium, St. David's Sea Life Centre (Centre), Wales.

b. The Centre's facilities allow for water temperature to be maintained at a temperature of 14.5 Celsius (58.1 Fahrenheit). Optimal water temperature for this species is 24 Celsius (75 Fahrenheit). Therefore, the Centre was unable to adequately maintain this specimen.

c. The specimen is being housed for evaluation at Sea World of Orlando, Orlando, Florida. Sea World of Orlando is licensed by the State of Florida as a sea turtle rehabilitation center in accordance with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's agreement with the Service under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act.

d. Following a satisfactory health and evaluation period, this specimen will be released back into the marine environment.

Dated: December 13, 1999.

Pamela Hall,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 99-32719 Filed 12-16-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Amended Notice of Intent (NOI) To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement To Protect Seabird Nesting Islands on Maine's Coast To Further Include a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge

SUMMARY: This NOI is an amendment to the previous notice published on 10/4/

95. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announces its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508). As originally announced, this EIS will continue to evaluate the FWS proposal to protect seabird nesting islands on Maine's coast, while also analyzing the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

We determined the need to amend the 1995 NOI once we broadened the scope of our analysis to incorporate a CCP for Petit Manan NWR. CCPs are required for all National Wildlife Refuges under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. The CCP will not only evaluate protection of coastal islands, but will also evaluate alternatives to managing wildlife and habitat, public use, and protection of cultural resources on all lands within the Refuge. A Wilderness Review of Petit Manan NWR will also be completed concurrently in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964, as amended.

We have already received considerable public input through a series of workshops and hearings completed in 1995. Comments previously submitted during the scoping period do not need to be resubmitted and will be considered in developing this DEIS. At this time, we invite other Federal agencies, states, Indian tribes, local governments, and the general public to submit additional comments concerning the development of the DEIS/CCP, the proposal to protect Maine's seabird nesting islands, and the Wilderness Review. You are invited to participate in scoping activities by submitting written comments, attending a public meeting to be held in April 2000, or attending a public hearing which will coincide with the Fall 2000 release of the DEIS/CCP. We will consider oral and written comments equally in preparation of the DEIS/CCP.

We will make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review if requested. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rule-making record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will not consider

anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. If you do not desire to submit comments or suggestions at this time, but would like to receive a copy of the DEIS for review, send a request to Mr. Stan Skutek, at the address given below.

DATES AND LOCATIONS: Written comments related to the scope and content of the DEIS/CCP should be submitted to us by May 12, 2000, to the address provided below. The public scoping meeting on the DEIS/CCP will be held on April 12, 2000, at the Comfort Inn in Augusta, Maine. A further notice announcing the time and location of the public hearing, to be held when the DEIS/CCP is released, will be published in local news media prior to the hearing date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: If you wish to make comments or receive planning updates and a DEIS/CCP, contact Mr. Stan Skutek, Refuge Manager, Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 279, Milbridge, Maine 04658-0279. (207) 546-2124. Comments may also be submitted electronically to the following address: R5RW_PMNWR@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP developed for Petit Manan NWR will guide future Refuge management decisions by developing goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving Refuge purposes. The CCP will consider a wide range of issues on Petit Manan NWR, including habitat and wildlife management, land acquisition, public use, and protection of cultural resources.

Petit Manan NWR is recognized internationally as important nesting habitat for seabirds, bald eagles, shorebirds, and wading birds. The Refuge consists of three mainland tracts and 38 coastal islands. The 6,954 acre complex includes such diverse habitats as forest, grasslands, freshwater and saltwater marshes, and peat lands. The coastal islands, which range in size from 1 acre to 1,650 acres, consist of forest, shrub lands, or grassland habitats. In addition, Refuge staff and the Service's Gulf of Maine Program Office have been providing technical assistance to private and public organizations seeking to protect Maine's coastal islands and are

active in promoting partnerships with private landowners, non-governmental organizations, and state agencies.

We will conduct a Wilderness Review, evaluating the wilderness potential of Petit Manan NWR, using the 6 criteria established by the Wilderness Act of 1964, as amended, and using additional considerations established in Service policy. Based on our findings, we may recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that all or some of the Refuge be designated National Wilderness Area(s). You will be able to comment on our proposed wilderness recommendations during the public hearing to be scheduled to coincide with the release of the DEIS/CCP.

We expect to release the DEIS/CCP by Fall 2000. Public comments will be welcome for a 60 day period following its release. We expect to publish the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) in Spring 2001. The ROD will present my decision and the supporting reasons for selecting the management actions to be implemented, including whether or not a wilderness area is recommended. I will make my final decision after considering public comments and the environmental consequences of the proposed actions as presented in the FEIS. All other applicable laws, regulations and policies will also be considered.

Dated: December 8, 1999.

Ronald E. Lambertson,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99-32745 Filed 12-16-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Service Regulations Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter Service) will conduct an open meeting on January 26, 2000, to identify and discuss preliminary issues concerning the 2000-01 migratory bird hunting regulations.

DATES: January 26, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The Service Regulations Committee will meet at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Building, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Room CC2, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan Andrew, Chief, Office of