

the proposed action and each alternative will be included in the EA or EIS. Several alternatives, including a No Action Alternative, will be considered and analyzed, representing varying levels of conservation, impacts, and permit area configurations. The No Action alternative means that the Service would not issue a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit.

The EA or EIS will identify potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on biological resources, land use, air quality, water quality, water resources, economics, and other environmental issues that could occur with the implementation of the Service's proposed actions and alternatives. For all potentially significant impacts, the EA or EIS will identify avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to reduce these impacts where feasible, to a level below significance. Where possible, we intend to incorporate by reference applicable sections from existing documents, such as the Army's 1993 EIS and 1996 Supplemental EIS on Fort Ord disposal and reuse.

Review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) found at (<http://www.legal.gsa.gov>), other appropriate Federal laws, and Service policies and

procedures for compliance with those regulations. This notice is being furnished in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7 of NEPA to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA or EIS. The primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues raised by the public, related to the proposed action. Written comments from interested parties are welcome to ensure that the full range of issues related to the permit request is identified. Written comments are encouraged, and we will accept written comments at the public meetings. In addition, you may submit written comments by mail or facsimile transmission (*see ADDRESSES*). All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

Dated: September 21, 2004.

**Ron Cole,**

*Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 04–21813 Filed 9–28–04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–55–M**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Issuance of Permits**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of permits for marine mammals.

**SUMMARY:** The following permits were issued.

**ADDRESSES:** 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: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax (703) 358–2281.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Division of Management Authority, telephone (703) 358–2104.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361, *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permit(s) subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

**Marine Mammals**

Permit number	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
086649 .....	Philip A. Teel .....	69 FR 30715; May 28, 2004 .....	August 5, 2004
089464 .....	Randy C. Brooks .....	69 FR 40965; July 7, 2004 .....	September 7, 2004

Dated: September 17, 2004.

**Monica Farris,**

*Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 04–21783 Filed 9–28–04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–55–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel. The meeting topics are identified in the

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**DATES:** The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel will meet from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, November 8, 2004, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9, 2004, and 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 2004. Minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

**ADDRESSES:** The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel meeting will be held at the Palace Resort and Hotel, 158 Howard Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530. Phone 228–432–8888. Minutes of the meeting will be maintained in the office of Chief, Division of Environmental Quality, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Suite 322, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203–1622.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ron Lukens, Gulf of Mexico Panel Chair, Assistant Director, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, PO Box 726, Ocean Springs, MS 39566, 228–875–

5912, or Everett Wilson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 703–358–2148.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. I), this notice announces meetings of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel was established by the ANS Task Force in 1999 and is comprised of representatives from Federal, State, and local agencies and from private environmental and commercial interests.

The purpose of the Panel is to advise and make recommendations to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force on issues relating to the Gulf of Mexico region of the United States that includes: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana,

Mississippi, and Texas. Responsibilities of the Panel include:

a. Identifying priorities for the Gulf of Mexico Region with respect to aquatic nuisance species;

b. Making recommendations to the Task Force regarding actions to carry out aquatic invasive species programs.

c. Assisting the Task Force in coordinating Federal aquatic nuisance species program activities in the Gulf of Mexico region;

d. Coordinating, where possible, aquatic invasive species program activities in the Gulf of Mexico region that are not conducted pursuant to the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (as amended, 1996);

e. Providing advice to public and private individuals and entities concerning methods of controlling aquatic nuisance species; and

f. Submitting an annual report describing activities within the Western region related to aquatic nuisance species prevention, research, and control.

The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel will discuss several topics at this meeting including: Panel administrative issues, potential new memberships, updates on the status of State ANS management plans, presentations from South Atlantic States, a discussion on the pet industry project, a discussion of the public aquarium project, work group reports, and a discussion of strategic plan development.

Dated: September 10, 2004.

**M. A. Parker,**

*Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Assistant Director—Fisheries & Habitat Conservation.*

[FR Doc. 04-21781 Filed 9-28-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Thirteenth Regular Meeting; Tentative U.S. Negotiating Positions for Agenda Items and Species Proposals Submitted by Foreign Governments and the CITES Secretariat; Announcement of Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the tentative U.S. negotiating positions on

agenda items, resolutions, and species proposals submitted by other countries and the CITES Secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at its thirteenth regular meeting (COP13). The meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, October 2-14, 2004. With this notice we also announce a public meeting to be held after the conclusion of COP13 to inform the public of the results of COP13 and invite public input on whether the United States should take a reservation on any of the amendments to the CITES Appendices adopted at the meeting.

**DATES:** In further developing U.S. negotiating positions on these issues, we will continue to consider information and comments submitted in response to our notice of July 2, 2004 (69 FR 40411). We will also continue to consider information received at the public meeting announced in that notice, which was held on August 12, 2004. The public meeting to be held after COP13 will be held on December 13, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send comments pertaining to resolutions and agenda items to the Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, VA 22203, or via e-mail at: [citescop13@fws.gov](mailto:citescop13@fws.gov). Please send comments pertaining to species proposals to the Division of Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 750, Arlington, VA 22203, or via e-mail to: [ScientificAuthority@fws.gov](mailto:ScientificAuthority@fws.gov). Comments and materials that we receive will be available for public inspection, by appointment, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Division of Management Authority and the Division of Scientific Authority.

#### **Public Meeting**

The post-COP13 public meeting will be held in the Rachel Carson Room, in the Department of the Interior at 18th and C Streets, NW., Washington, DC. Directions to the building may be obtained by contacting the Division of Management Authority (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, below).

#### **Available Information**

Information concerning the results of COP13 will be available after the close of the meeting on the Secretariat's Web site at <http://www.cites.org>, or upon request from the Division of Management Authority, or via our COP13 Web site at <http://international.fws.gov/cop%2013/cop13.htm>.

If you wish to contact the U.S. delegation to COP13 during the meeting, you may send an e-mail to the following address: [COP13\\_daily@fws.gov](mailto:COP13_daily@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information pertaining to resolutions, discussion papers, and agenda items, contact Peter O. Thomas, Ph.D., Chief, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, tel. 703-358-2095; fax 703-358-2298; e-mail: [citescop13@fws.gov](mailto:citescop13@fws.gov). For information pertaining to species proposals, contact Robert R. Gabel, Chief, Division of Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, tel. 703-358-1708; fax 703-358-2276; e-mail: [ScientificAuthority@fws.gov](mailto:ScientificAuthority@fws.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, (CITES or the Convention), is an international treaty designed to control and regulate international trade in certain animal and plant species that are now or potentially may become threatened with extinction due to trade. These species are listed in Appendices to CITES, COPIes of which are available from the Division of Management Authority or the Division of Scientific Authority at the above addresses, from our Web site at <http://international.fws.gov>, or from the official CITES Secretariat (Secretariat) Web site at <http://www.cites.org/>. Currently, 166 countries, including the United States, are Parties to CITES. CITES calls for regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to review issues pertaining to CITES implementation, make provisions enabling the CITES Secretariat to carry out its functions, consider amendments to the list of species in Appendices I and II, consider reports presented by the Secretariat, and make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CITES. Any country that is a Party to CITES may propose and vote on amendments to Appendices I and II (species proposals), resolutions, decisions, discussion papers, and agenda items submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. Accredited nongovernmental organizations may participate in the meeting as approved observers and may speak during sessions when recognized by the meeting Chairman, but they may not vote or submit proposals. COP13 will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, October 2-14, 2004.