

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080697C]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of scientific research permit 1052.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that on August 5, 1997, NMFS issued scientific research permit 1052 to Joseph E. Hightower, of the North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (P647), to take listed shortnose sturgeon for the purpose of scientific research subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

ADDRESSES: The application, permit, and related documents are available for review by appointment in the following offices:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Room 13307, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813-893-3141).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice was published on June 3, 1997 (62 FR 31576) that an application had been filed by Joseph E. Hightower, of the North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (P647), to take listed shortnose sturgeon as authorized by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-222).

The applicant requested a two-year permit to capture, examine, tag, and take tissue samples of 25 juvenile and adult listed shortnose sturgeon annually within the Albemarle Sound estuarine system. A maximum of 25 shortnose sturgeon will be collected from the Albemarle Sound to determine the status of shortnose sturgeon in the estuary and to examine habitat selection and overlap for shortnose sturgeon and juvenile Atlantic sturgeon. The sturgeon will be examined, measured, photographed, and tagged. Sonic transmitters will be externally attached to the sturgeon to monitor their movement within the Sound. The sturgeon will be released immediately following the above procedures. All of these adult shortnose sturgeon may be fitted with a sonic transmitter. The

applicant also has requested one incidental mortality per year. The purpose of the research is to determine the status of shortnose sturgeon migratory movements and to help identify spawning, feeding, and overwintering areas.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: August 8, 1997.

Nancy Chu,

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

[FR Doc. 97-21532 Filed 8-13-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080797A]

Marine Mammals; Public Display Permit (PHF# 852-1356)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that The Dallas World Aquarium, Inc., 1801 North Griffin, Dallas, TX 75202, has applied in due form for a permit to import Amazon River dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*), for purposes of public display.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before September 15, 1997.

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); and Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9731 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, (206/526-6150).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this application, should be submitted to the Chief, Permits Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East-West

Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular application would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director, Office of Protected Resources.

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant requests authorization to import four Amazon River dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*). The Venezuelan Service Agency for the Protection, Restoration, Promotion and Rational Utilization of the Wildlife and Aquatic life of the Country has issued a capture license to the applicant. The dolphins would be collected from the Apure River near San Fernando, Venezuela, and maintained at the J.V. Seijas Aquarium in Valencia, Venezuela, until the public display facility at the Dallas World Aquarium receives final approval from the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). As any issues relating to the care and maintenance of captive marine mammals are within the purview of APHIS, under the Animal Welfare Act, copies of the application are also being sent to APHIS for review.

The Dallas World Aquarium is open to the public on a regularly scheduled basis with access that is not limited or restricted other than by charging an admission fee; and offers an educational program based upon the educational standards of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has included this species in the 1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals under the category "vulnerable", i.e., taxa believed likely to move into the Endangered category in the near future if causal factors continue operating. Population data concerning *Inia geoffrensis* in Venezuela is limited and the application states that no census has been taken of the subject wild population/stock. Therefore, NMFS has concerns about the status and conservation of the dolphins in the Orinoco river system and the potential

impacts of the permanent removal of four sub-adults from this population/stock.

Additionally, NMFS is concerned that holding this species in captivity may involve a significant risk to the health and welfare of the animals held.

Historically, study results conclude that due to a number of factors this species has fared poorly in captivity in the United States, with an average longevity of 32.6 months for the 35 animals for which data was available. (See *Inia geoffensis in Captivity in the United States*, Melba C. Caldwell, David K. Caldwell and Randall L. Brill. 1989. Proc. Workshop on Biology and Conservation of the Platanistoid Dolphins, Wuhan, People's Republic of China. The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Occasional Papers of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Number 3. 35-41.) The applicant has addressed, in part, some of the survivability factors raised in the Caldwell study, citing successful behavioral experiences with this species at the J.V. Seijas Aquarium in Valencia, Venezuela. The applicant submitted additional information on August 4, 1997, to address the concerns cited above; however, several aspects of these concerns persist. As a result, before decision is made to issue or deny issuance of a permit, NMFS is soliciting information that will assist the agency in determining whether: (1) The applicant meets the three public display criteria; (2) the proposed activity is humane and does not present any unnecessary risks to the health and welfare of the marine mammals; (3) the proposed activity by itself or in combination with other activities, will not likely have a significant adverse impact on the species or stock; and (4) the applicant's expertise, facilities, and resources are adequate to accomplish successfully the objectives and activities stated in the application.

Dated: August 8, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 97-21464 Filed 8-13-97; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Romania; Correction

August 8, 1997.

In the letter to the Commissioner of Customs published in the **Federal Register** on July 23, 1997 (62 FR 39501), column 2, under the heading "Adjusted twelve-month limit," the unit of measure for Category 410 should be corrected from "dozen" to "square meters."

Troy H. Cribb,

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation
of Textile Agreements.*

[FR Doc. 97-21506 Filed 8-13-97; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Notice of Availability; Chicago Mercantile Exchange Proposed Amendments to the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Price Index Futures and Futures Option Contracts and the E- Mini Standard and Poor's 500 Stock Price Index Futures and Option Contracts

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed amendments to the multiplier and minimum price fluctuation provisions in the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Price Index futures and futures option contracts and the minimum price fluctuation provisions in the E-Mini Standard and Poor's 500 Stock Price Index futures and option contracts.

SUMMARY: The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) has submitted proposed amendments to halve the multiplier in the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Price Index (S&P 500) futures contract and to double the minimum price fluctuation in the S&P 500 futures and option contracts. The CME also has submitted proposed amendments to increase the minimum price fluctuation limit in the E-Mini Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Price Index (E-Mini S&P 500) futures and futures option contracts. The Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposals for comment is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering

the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to facsimile number (202) 418-5521 or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to the proposed amendments to the index multiplier and minimum tick provisions of the S&P 500 futures and futures option contracts and the minimum tick provisions of the E-Mini S&P 500 futures and option contracts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact Thomas Leahy of the Division of Economic Analysis, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581, telephone 202-418-5278. Facsimile number: (202) 418-5527. Electronic mail: tleahy@cftc.gov. **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The CME proposes to halve the contract size of the S&P 500 futures contract by reducing the index multiplier to \$250 times the S&P 500 from \$500 times the S&P 500. The CME also proposes to increase the S&P 500 futures and option minimum price fluctuations to 0.10 index point from 0.05 index point, thus maintaining the dollar value of the minimum tick at \$25.00 per contract. Under the proposal, the unit of trading in the S&P 500 futures option contract would be two S&P 500 futures contracts. Thus, the S&P 500 futures option would be exercisable into two futures contracts. The CME has represented that it intends to implement these amendments in October or November 1997 for application to existing and newly listed contract months beginning with the December 1997 contracts.

Separately, the CME proposes to increase the size of the minimum price fluctuation in the E-Mini S&P 500 futures and option contracts to 0.25 index point (\$12.50 per contract) from 0.10 index point (\$5.00 per contract). Those amendments would be implemented, for newly listed contract months only, at the time the E-Mini S&P 500 futures and option contracts are listed for trading.

In support of its proposal to apply the proposed S&P 500 futures and option contract amendments to existing contracts, the CME stated that sufficient advance notice would be provided to those who choose to offset their positions. Further, the CME stated that,