

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).

**Applicant:** U.S.G.S. Alaska Science Center, Anchorage AK, PRT-690038.

**Permit Type:** Take, import, and export for scientific research.

**Name and Number of Animals:** Polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*), 200.

**Summary of Activity To Be**

**Authorized:** The applicant has requested renewal and amendment of the permit for take activities, import and export to include: Chemically immobilize; ear-tag; tattoo; paint-mark; remove tooth; measure (including bio-electrical impedance); weigh; collect samples of blood, blubber, skin, and claw shavings (from the captured bears and from legally hunted and salvaged bears); fit up to 50 females bears with a neck collar of either a VHF radio transmitter device or a satellite transmitter device; recapture and release; import an unspecified number of biological samples from legally acquired polar bears; and export an unspecified number of biological samples acquired from the captured bears, from legally hunted bears, and from salvaged bears for the purpose of scientific research.

**Source of Marine Mammals:** North and Northwest coast of Alaska, pack and fast-ice of the Beaufort, Bering, and Chukchi Seas, and import samples from Canada, Greenland, Norway, or Russia.

**Period of Activity:** From the issuance date of the permit to October 31, 2005.

**Applicant:** Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL, PRT-033974.

**Permit Type:** Take for scientific research.

**Name and Number of Animals:** Manatees (*Trichechus* spp.), approximately 50 samples from 25 individual animals annually.

**Summary of Activity To Be**

**Authorized:** The applicant has requested a permit to conduct stable isotopic analyses of tooth fragments taken from existing museum specimens of the three manatee species (*T. inunguis*, *T. manatus*, and *T. senegalensis*) and from teeth that have been naturally shed from captive individuals of West Indian manatees (*T. manatus*). These teeth fragments will be analyzed for the determination of diet composition to compare the modern manatees' diet with ancient manatee diet.

**Source of Marine Mammals:** Existing museum specimens, captive-held animals in U.S. facilities.

**Period of Activity:** Up to three years from the issuance date of the permit.

**Applicant:** U.S.G.S., Biological Resources Division, Santa Cruz, CA, PRT-672624.

**Permit Type:** Take for scientific research.

**Name and Number of Animals:** Southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*), up to 500.

**Summary of Activity To Be**

**Authorized:** The applicant has requested an amendment to the permit to authorize capture and flipper tagging of up to 500 sea otters, take blood and tooth samples from 250 animals, and instrument 135 animals with implanted radio transmitters. In addition, up to 30 of the implanted animals will be instrumented with TDRs (time/depth recorders); up to 10 of the implanted animals will be recaptured annually for the first 2 years to retrieve and replace the implanted radios; and up to 25 of these animals per year will be recaptured once for the years 3 through 5 to replace their implanted radios. No animals weighing less than 20 pounds will be surgically instrumented.

**Source of Marine Mammals:** Entire range of Southern sea otters in California.

**Period of Activity:** Up to 5 years from the issuance date of the amended permit.

**Applicant:** Branko Terkovich, Mendham, NJ, PRT-034570.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has information collection approval from OMB through February 28, 2001. OMB Control Number 1018-0093. Federal Agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.

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).

Dated: October 13, 2000.

**Charlie Chandler,**

Chief, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 00-26944 Filed 10-18-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-U

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Risk Assessment and Management Committee Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Risk Assessment and Management Committee of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The Committee will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 1, 2000; and from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, November 2, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the US Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Florida Caribbean Science Center, 7920 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL; phone (352) 378-8181.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard Orr, Chair, Risk Assessment and Management Committee, at (202) 208-2616 or by email at [richard\\_orr@os.doi.gov](mailto:richard_orr@os.doi.gov) or Sharon Gross, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at (703) 358-2308 or by e-mail at: [sharon\\_gross@fws.gov](mailto:sharon_gross@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Assessment and Management Committee. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701-4741). Topics to be addressed at this meeting include: Discussion on the Screening Process, risk analysis and pathway identification components of the Draft National Invasive Species Management Plan; examination of the methodology and outreach used in conducting the Florida Sturgeon Culture Risk Assessment; review of new information on Black Carp obtained since the original risk assessment was

completed (1996) to determine if changes to the recommendations are warranted; discussion on the development of a risk assessment of the Asian Swamp Eel; and review of future committee goals and projects.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 851, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622; and the Chair of the Ballast Water and Shipping Committee at the Environmental Standards Division, Office of Operations and Environmental Standards, U.S. Coast Guard (G-MSO-4), 2100 Second Street, SW, room 1309, Washington, DC 20593-0001. Minutes for the meetings will be available at these locations for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Dated: October 13, 2000.

**William Knapp,**

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

[FR Doc. 00-26839 Filed 10-18-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Establishment of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved the establishment of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge on portions of the approximately 8,500-acre Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant in Harrison County, Texas. This refuge will be established for the purpose of migratory bird and other fish and wildlife management, conservation, and protection.

**DATES:** This action was effective on October 13, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Barbara Rose with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Albuquerque, NM, 505-248-7412.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The authority to transfer real property jurisdiction, custody, and control from one Federal agency to another is found in the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 471-535). In addition, the Act of May 19, 1948, Public Law 80-537 (16 U.S.C. 667b) provides that, upon request, "real

property which is under the jurisdiction or control of a Federal agency and no longer required by such agency \* \* \* may, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, be transferred, without reimbursement \* \* \* to the Secretary of the Interior if the real property has particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program." The Secretary also has authority pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661-666c), and the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended (16 U.S.C. 742 a-j; 70 Stat. 1119), to enter into cooperative agreements to manage fish and wildlife resources on lands owned by or under the jurisdiction of another entity. The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd), consolidates all areas administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service for the management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife (including those areas managed by the Service under cooperative agreement with other Federal departments or agencies) into the National Wildlife Refuge System and places restrictions on the transfer, exchange, or other disposal of lands within the System.

The Director approved the establishment of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge on October 13, 2000. The Service will enter into a cooperative agreement with the Department of the Army that will establish the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Initially we will obtain permission to conduct migratory bird and other fish and wildlife protection and conservation activities on portions of the approximately 8,500-acre Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant (LHAAP). In this arrangement the Army will retain primary jurisdiction, custody, and control of the LHAAP, and we will create an "overlay" refuge on a portion of the Army lands. The Army is in the process of cleaning up those areas within the LHAAP that have environmental contaminants. When the Army, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Service agree that the lands within the overlay refuge are suitable for transfer, we could then accept primary jurisdiction, custody, and control over these lands, and the overlay status would dissipate.

The Army acquired the land from a number of private landowners and established the LHAAP in October 1942 to produce trinitrotoluene (TNT). The plant became excess to the Army's needs in July 1997, and on April 17, 1998, we expressed an interest in receiving a no-cost transfer of the lands

under the authority of the Act of May 19, 1948. The site is located within Harrison County, Texas, in the unincorporated village of Karnack and is adjacent to the Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area. The area is in the northeastern part of the State, about 3 miles (4.8 km) from the Louisiana State line and 25 miles (40 km) from the City of Shreveport, Louisiana. It is about 15 miles (24 km) from the cities of Marshall and Jefferson, Texas.

The refuge is designed to protect one of the highest quality old-growth bottomland hardwood forests in the southeastern United States. The hardwood forest lies along Harrison Bayou, and the associated wetlands are located along the shore of Caddo Lake. These wetlands are listed as a "Wetland of International Significance" under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and is one of only 17 such designated areas in the United States.

The establishment of this refuge will ensure the conservation and protection of the migratory and resident waterfowl and neotropical migratory birds associated with these wetlands. Studies have listed up to 224 species of birds, 22 species of amphibians, 46 species of reptiles, and 93 species of fish in this area. A total of 20 animal species of concern are located or potentially located on the LHAAP and adjacent Caddo Lake. They include seven species of fish, six species of reptiles, six species of birds and four species of mammals. Two species are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act (Louisiana black bear and bald eagle).

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, we prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA), distributed on August 11, 2000, that evaluated four alternatives and their potential impacts. A public meeting/open house was held on August 21, 2000, in Karnack, Texas, at the Caddo Lake State Park. The comment period closed on September 11, and the final EA was completed on September 21, 2000. The proposal was coordinated with the State of Texas Clearinghouse in the Governor's Office, the Congressional delegations, Harrison County, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, The State Historic Preservation Office, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Department of the Army, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the General Services Administration—Greater Southwest Region, the "Friends of Longhorn," the Caddo Lake Institute, and other local citizens. All comments received at the public meeting and via