

Dated: Apr 30, 2003.

Laurie K. Allen,

Acting Office Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 03-11377 Filed 5-6-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050103D]

Marine Mammals; File No. 881-1710

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC), 301 Railway Avenue, Seward, AK 99664, (Shannon Atkinson, Ph.D., Principal Investigator) has applied in due form for a permit to take harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before June 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376; and Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Amy Sloan, (301)713-2289.

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).

To better investigate potential causes of the decline of harbor seals in the Gulf of Alaska, the ASLC is restructuring their captive population to represent young, healthy seals from genetic stocks affected by the Gulf of Alaska decline. To accomplish this, eight recently weaned harbor seals will be captured from the wild over a two to three year period in the Gulf of Alaska for long-term holding and research at the ASLC. Seals will be captured in nets and

transported in kennels to the ASLC for permanent captivity. A maximum of 30 capture attempts will occur per year. During seal capture attempts in the wild, up to 20 seals may incidentally be caught in nets and released, and up to 100 seals may be incidentally disturbed at the haul-out sites. Weaned female pups captured for permanent captivity will be sampled in the wild as follows: sedation or anesthesia; body mass, morphometrics, and 3D photogrammetry; blood, blubber, whisker, and skin samples; body composition; flipper tagging and microchip implant; ultrasound; fecal and urine collection; skin and mucosal swabs; endoscopy; and disease screening. Two accidental mortalities per year are requested during activities conducted in the wild and during transport.

Once at the ASLC, the following will be performed on the harbor seals: monthly health assessments (as described in sampling above); hormone challenge experiments twice yearly; weights and measurements taken up to daily; blood sampling up to once a week; fecal and urine sampling 12 times a year, with dietary markers used four times per year; blubber ultrasound up to daily; bio-electrical impedance once a month; total blood volume determination once a month; deuterium oxide administration and blood sampling once per month; feeding trials four times a year; mucosal swabs, saliva collection, examination of external genitalia up to three times per week; blubber biopsies up to eight times per year; video, photographic, radiographic, digital, and thermal imaging as needed; anesthesia and sedation as deemed necessary by the attending veterinarian. Up to two research-related mortalities per year are requested for the harbor seals once held at ASLC.

This study investigates the importance of lipids in the diets of harbor seals and the long-term effects of high and low lipid diets on the growth, development, maturity, and health of seals. The ASLC proposes to measure a suite of growth and health parameters for seals fed a mixed species diet that differ only with the presence of high and low fat herring and test whether seals that are lean due to lower dietary lipids show, relative to the seals fed a higher lipid diet: (1) Decreased growth rates; (2) delayed reproduction; (3) altered ovulation times; (4) endocrine or immune system function that may adversely affect reproduction or survival; (5) different seasonal or age-related physiological responses affecting digestive efficiency and lipid storage. The following types of samples will be

collected from each of the eight harbor seals held at ASLC: blood, blubber, whisker, skin, urine, feces, and skin and mucosal swabs. The applicant has requested a five-year permit.

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.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular 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 by other electronic media.

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: May 1, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 03-11375 Filed 5-6-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Title: Patent Processing (Updating).

Form Number(s): PTO/SB/08a/08b/ 21/22/23/24/24A/25/26/27/30/31/32/ 35/36/37/42/43/61/62/63/ 64/64a/67/ 68/91/92/96/97, PTO-2053-A/B, PTO-

2054-A/B, PTO-2055-A/B, PTOL/413A, eIDS, EFS form.
Agency Approval Number: 0651-0031.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 830,629 hours annually.

Number of Respondents: 2,208,339 responses per year.

Avg. Hours Per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take anywhere from one minute 48 seconds (0.03 hours) to eight hours (8.0 hours), depending on the amount of information that the applicant needs to submit to the USPTO, to complete the forms and requirements associated with this information collection. This includes time to gather the necessary information, create the documents, and submit the completed request.

Needs and Uses: During the pendency of a patent application or the period of enforceability of a patent, situations arise that require collection of information for the USPTO to further process the patented file or the patent application. This information can be used by the USPTO to continue the processing of the patent or application or to ensure that applicants are complying with the patent regulations. These situations involve responses filed by applicants to various USPTO actions and may include information disclosures and citations; requests for extensions of time; the establishment of small entity status; abandonment or revival of abandoned applications; disclaimers; appeals; expedited examination of design applications; transmittal forms; requests to inspect, copy and access patent applications; publication requests; and certificates of mailing/transmission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; farms, the Federal Government, and State, Local or Tribal Governments.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Suite 310, 2231 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202; by phone (703) 308-7400; or by e-mail at susan.brown@uspto.gov.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before June 6, 2003 to David Rostker,

OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC. 20503.

Dated: April 30, 2003.

Susan K. Brown,

Records Officer, USPTO, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division.

[FR Doc. 03-11245 Filed 5-6-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Sri Lanka

May 2, 2003.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 8, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection website at <http://www.customs.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota reopenings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel Web site at <http://www.otexa.ita.doc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being reduced for carryforward used.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 68 FR 1599, published on January 13, 2003). Also

see 67 FR 68576, published on November 12, 2002.

James C. Leonard III,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

May 2, 2003.

Commissioner,
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection,
Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on November 1, 2002, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Sri Lanka and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 2003 and extends through December 31, 2003.

Effective on May 8, 2003, you are directed to reduce the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

| Category | Adjusted twelve-month limit ¹ |
|---------------|--|
| 338/339 | 2,120,245 dozen. |
| 347/348 | 1,515,825 dozen. |
| 351/651 | 574,236 dozen. |
| 647/648 | 1,910,492 dozen. |

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 2002.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception of the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,
James C. Leonard III,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 03-11307 Filed 5-6-03; 8:45 a.m.]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Pub. L. 92-463, notice is hereby given of the forthcoming meeting of the Secretary's Advisory Group. The purpose of this meeting is to provide advice to the Secretary of the Air Force on short and long-term space-related strategy issues for the Air Force. This meeting will be closed to the public.

DATE: May 8, 2003.