

allocations, and accountability measures; ending overfishing of gag; managing gag and red grouper commercial and recreational harvests consistent with TAC; reducing grouper discard mortality; establishing seasonal-area closures; and requiring compliance with Federal fishery management regulations by federally permitted reef fish vessels when fishing in state waters. Based on further analysis of the environmental impacts of actions proposed in Amendment 30B, NMFS and the Council did not anticipate any significant impacts on the human environment and published a notice on March 7, 2008 (73 FR 12393) announcing an EA would be the appropriate NEPA document. Subsequent to this evaluation, the Council wished to examine a more extensive seasonal area closure to protect spawning aggregations of gag and other reef fish species. As a result of this and other changes, NMFS and the Council determined actions in Amendment 30B could be significant to the human environment and determined an EIS was required to further evaluate the impacts of Amendment 30B.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: July 7, 2008.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-X131

Marine Mammals; File No. 716-1705

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Fred Sharpe, Ph.D., Alaska Whale Foundation, 4739 University Way NE, #1239, Seattle Washington 98105 has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 716-1705-00.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

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)427-2521;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426; and

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan or Carrie Hubbard, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 6, 2008, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 32307) that an amendment of Permit No. 716-1705-00 had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

The amendment authorizes Dr. Sharpe to use a mini-helicopter to film lunge feeding humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in Southeast Alaska in July and August, 2008.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a supplemental environmental assessment was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities. After a Finding of No Significant Impact, the determination was made that it was not necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement.

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 such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 7, 2008.

P. Michael Payne,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[FWS-R1-R-2008-N0040; 1265-0000-10137-S3]

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Hawaii

AGENCIES: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Interior; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of extension of the public comment period for the draft monument management plan and environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the public comment period has been extended for the NOAA, FWS, and the State of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and Office of Hawaiian Affairs' Draft Monument Management Plan (MMP) and associated environmental assessment (EA) for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Monument). See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for details.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive written comments by July 23, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The Draft MMP and EA are available on the FWS and NOAA Web sites <http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands> and <http://hawaiiireef.noaa.gov/>, as well as at local libraries within the State of Hawaii. You may provide written comments on the Draft MMP and EA by any of the following methods:

U.S. Mail: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Attn: Susan White, FWS Superintendent, Box 50167, Honolulu, HI 96850-5000 (must be postmarked by July 23);

Hand-delivery: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument at 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231 in Honolulu; or

E-mail:
PMNM_MMP_Comments@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan White, FWS Superintendent, phone (808) 792-9480.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 75-day federal public comment period for the Draft Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Plan (73 FR 21975, April 23, 2008) has been extended for an additional 15 days, until July 23, 2008. The draft plan was released by the National Oceanic and