

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.*

[FR Doc. E8-15802 Filed 7-10-08; 8:45 am]

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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.*

[FR Doc. E8-15834 Filed 7-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

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

Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs on April 22. During a series of ten public meetings in June, members of the public requested an extension of the comment period due to the size of the draft plan.

The 90-day federal comment period will end on July 23, 2008. Although the official State comment period occurs from June 8 through July 8 in accordance with State regulations from the Office of Environmental Quality Control, the State will review, consider and address public comments received during the entire comment period. All substantive comments received during the public comment period will be addressed in a Summary of Public Comments section of the final Monument Management Plan, which will compose Volume V of the plan.

Dated: July 8, 2008.

Daniel J. Basta,

Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Dated: July 8, 2008.

Gary D. Frazer,

Director, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. E8-15847 Filed 7-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-X182

U.S. Climate Change Science Program Synthesis and Assessment Product Draft Report 2.3 "Aerosol properties and their impacts on climate"

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration publishes this notice to announce a 45-day public comment period for the draft report titled, U.S. Climate Change Science Program Synthesis and Assessment Product 2.3 "Aerosol properties and their impacts on climate." This draft report is being released solely for the purpose of pre-dissemination peer review under applicable information quality guidelines. This document has not been formally disseminated by NOAA. It does not represent and should

not be construed to represent any Agency policy or determination. After consideration of comments received on the draft report, a revised version along with the comments received will be published on the CCSP web site.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 25, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The draft Synthesis and Assessment Product: 2.3 is posted on the CCSP Web site at: <http://www.climatescience.gov/Library/sap/sap2-3/default.php>

Detailed instructions for making comments on this draft report are provided on the SAP 2.3 webpage. Comments must be prepared in accordance to these instructions and must be submitted to: 2.3-aerosols@climatescience.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Fabien Laurier, Climate Change Science Program Office, 1717 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20006, Telephone: (202) 419-3481.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CCSP was established by the President in 2002 to coordinate and integrate scientific research on global and climate changes sponsored by 13 participating departments and agencies of the U.S. Government. The CCSP is charged with preparing information resources that promote climate-related discussions and decisions, including scientific synthesis and assessment analyses that support evaluation of important policy issues.

Dated: July 1, 2008.

William J. Brennan,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Director, Climate Change Science Program.

[FR Doc. E8-15800 Filed 7-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Inland Waterways Users Board; Request for Nominations

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 302 of Public Law 99-662 established the Inland Waterways Users Board. The Board is an independent Federal advisory committee. The Secretary of the Army appoints its 11 members. This notice is to solicit nominations for six (6) appointments or reappointments to two-year terms that will begin after March 1, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works),

Attention: Inland Waterways Users Board Nominations Committee, 108 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-0108.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), (703) 697-8986.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The selection, service, and appointment of Board members are covered by provisions of Section 302 of Public Law 99-662. The substance of those provisions is as follows:

a. Selection. Members are to be selected from the spectrum of commercial carriers and shippers using the inland and intracoastal waterways, to represent geographical regions, and to be representative of waterborne commerce as determined by commodity ton-miles statistics.

b. Service. The Board is required to meet at least semi-annually to develop and make recommendations to the Secretary of the Army on waterways construction and rehabilitation priorities and spending levels for commercial navigation improvements, and report its recommendations annually to the Secretary and Congress.

c. Appointment. The operation of the Board and appointment of its members are subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended) and departmental implementing regulations. Members serve without compensation but their expenses due to Board activities are reimbursable. The considerations specified in Section 302 for the selection of the Board members, and certain terms used therein, have been interpreted, supplemented, or otherwise clarified as follows:

(1) *Carriers and Shippers.* The law uses the terms "primary users and shippers." Primary users have been interpreted to mean the providers of transportation services on inland waterways such as barge or towboat operators. Shippers have been interpreted to mean the purchasers of such services for the movement of commodities they own or control. Individuals are appointed to the Board, but they must be either a carrier or shipper, or represent a firm that is a carrier or shipper. For that purpose a trade or regional association is neither a shipper nor primary user.

(2) *Geographical Representation.* The law specifies "various" regions. For the purpose of selecting Board members, the waterways subjected to fuel taxes and described in Public Law 95-502, as amended, have been aggregated into six regions. They are (1) The Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries