

Committee Act, it has been determined that this HSAC meeting concerns matters that “disclose investigative techniques and procedures” under 25 U.S.C. 552b(c)(7)(E) and are “likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action” within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B) and that, accordingly, the meeting will be closed to the public.

Discussion of ongoing investigations with Department of Homeland Security enforcement Components and outside law enforcement partners fall within the meaning of 5 U.S.C 552b(7)(E) insofar as they will “disclose investigative techniques and procedures.” Additionally, release of information presented during the briefings and the nature of the discussion could lead to premature disclosure of information on Department of Homeland Security actions that would be “likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action.”

Dated: December 19, 2008.  
**Stewart Baker,**  
*Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy.*  
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS-R9-IA-2008-N0334; 96300-1671-0000-P5]**

**Issuance of Permits**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.  
**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of permits for endangered species.

**SUMMARY:** The following permits were issued.

**ADDRESSES:** 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: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358-2281.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358-2104.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein. For each permit for an endangered species, the Service found that (1) The application was filed in good faith, (2) the granted permit would not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species, and (3) the granted permit would be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Permit No.	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
<b>Endangered Species</b>			
PRT's-182592, 182594 182595, 182596, 058658, 058659, 058660, 058662, 058663, 058664, 058665, 058666, 058667, 058668, 058669, 058681, 058683, 058685, and 058780.	Hawthorn Corporation .....	73 FR 49698; August 22, 2008 .....	November 13, 2008.
189849 .....	Los Angeles Zoo .....	73 FR 61162; October 15, 2008 .....	December 1, 2008.
192243 .....	Houston Zoo, Inc .....	73 FR 56863; September 30, 2008 ....	November 20, 2008.

Dated: December 5, 2008.  
**Lisa J. Lierheimer,**  
*Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*  
 [FR Doc. E8-31011 Filed 12-29-08; 8:45 am]  
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS-R9-FHC-2008-N0287; 80221-1113-0000-L5]**

**Marine Mammal Protection Act; Stock Assessment Report**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.  
**ACTION:** Notice of availability of final 2008 revised marine mammal stock assessment report for the southern sea otter in California; response to comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972,

as amended (MMPA), and its implementing regulations, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce that we have revised our stock assessment report (SAR) for the southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) stock in California State, including incorporation of public comments. We now make our complete final 2008 revised SAR available to the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the methods, data, and results of the stock assessment, contact Lilian Carswell by phone at (805) 612-2793 or by e-mail at [Lilian\\_Carswell@fws.gov](mailto:Lilian_Carswell@fws.gov).

**ADDRESSES:** Send requests for printed copies of the SAR to: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003. You may also view or download it at [http://www.fws.gov/ventura/speciesinfo/so\\_sea\\_otter/](http://www.fws.gov/ventura/speciesinfo/so_sea_otter/).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations at 50 CFR part 18, we regulate the taking, possession, transportation, purchasing, selling, offering for sale, exporting, and importing of marine mammals. One of the goals of the MMPA is to ensure that stocks of marine mammals occurring in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States do not experience a level of human-caused mortality and serious injury that is likely to cause the stock to be reduced below its *optimum sustainable population level* (OSP). OSP is defined as “the number of animals which will result in the maximum productivity of the population or the species, keeping in mind the carrying capacity of the habitat and the health of the ecosystem of which they form a constituent element.”

To help accomplish the goal of maintaining marine mammal stocks at their OSPs, section 117 of the MMPA