

Tourism and Finance is accepting applications for Board members. Members shall serve until the Board's charter expires on April 1, 2005. Members will be selected based on our judgement of the candidates' proven experience in promoting, developing, and implementing advertising and marketing programs for travel-related or tourism-related industries; or the candidates' proven abilities to manage tourism-related or other service-related organizations. Each Board member shall serve as the representative of a tourism-related "U.S. entity." However, for the purposes of eligibility, a U.S. entity shall be defined as a firm incorporated in the United States (or an unincorporated firm with its principal place of business in the United States) that is controlled by U.S. citizens or by another U.S. entity. An entity is not a U.S. entity if 50 percent plus one share of its stock (if a corporation, or a similar ownership interest of an unincorporated entity) is controlled, directly or indirectly, by non-U.S. citizens or non-U.S. entities. Priority may be given to chief executive officers or a similarly-situated officer of a tourism-related entity. Priority may also be given to individuals with international tourism marketing experience.

Officers or employees of state and regional tourism marketing entities are also eligible for consideration for Board membership. A state and regional tourism marketing entity, may include, but is not limited to, state government tourism office, state and/or local government supported tourism marketing entities, or multi-state tourism marketing entities. Again, priority may be given to chief executive officers or a similarly-situated officer.

Secondary selection criteria will ensure that the board has a balanced representation of the tourism-related industry in terms of point of view, demographics, geography and company size. The Board members will be selected on the basis of their experience and knowledge of the tourism industry. Members will serve at the discretion of the Secretary of Commerce.

Board members shall serve in a representative capacity presenting the views and interests of the particular tourism-related sector in which they operate. Board members are not special government employees, and will receive no compensation for their participation in Board activities. Members participating in Board meetings and events will be responsible for their travel, living and other personal expenses. Meetings will be held regularly, usually in Washington, DC.

The first Board meeting has not yet been determined.

To be considered for membership, please provide the following: 1. Name and title of the individual requesting consideration. 2. A letter of recommendation containing a brief statement of why the applicant should be considered for membership on the Board. This recommendation should also include the applicant's tourism-related experience. 3. The applicant's personal resume. 4. An affirmative statement that the applicant is not required to register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended. 5. If a state or regional tourism marketing entity, the functions and responsibilities of the entity. 6. The company's size and ownership, product or service line and major markets in which the company operates.

ADDRESSES: Submit application information to Douglas B. Baker, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Service Industries, Tourism and Finance, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 1128, Washington, DC 20230.

Deadline: All applications must be received by the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Service Industries, Tourism and Finance by close of business on May 12, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas B. Baker, (202) 482-5261.

Dated: April 17, 2003.

Helen Marano,

Director, Office of Travel & Tourism.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041703B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 981-1707

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

ACTION: Receipt of application and notice of availability of draft environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Peter L. Tyack, Biology Department, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, 02543, has applied in due form for a permit to take various cetacean species for purposes of scientific research. A draft environmental assessment has been

prepared on the proposed research and is available for comment.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before May 23, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The application, draft environmental assessment, and related documents are available for review upon written request, by downloading from the internet, 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; www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res;

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5320.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Hubard, Tammy Adams, or Steve Leathery, (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.*), 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 applicant requests authorization for a five year permit to take various cetacean species, including endangered whales, in the North Atlantic (including the Gulf of Mexico) and Mediterranean Sea for scientific purposes related to the biology, foraging ecology, communication, and behavior of these animals. The research focuses on cetacean responses to anthropogenic sounds in the marine environment. Takes would include close approach, suction-cup tagging, and playbacks of high frequency whale-finding sonar, airgun sounds, and sperm whale codas. The permit application covers three research projects which use as their primary research method non-intrusive, suction-cup tagging with an advanced digital sound recording tag (DTAG). The DTAG can record what an animal hears and measure vocal, behavioral, and physiological responses to sound. Small fragments of sloughed skin found in the suction-cup of the DTAG after retrieval will be exported from field sites and imported for genetic analyses. The applicant seeks to test a whale-finding