

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Bruce R. Mate, Oregon State University, Newport, Oregon 97365-5296, has been issued an amendment to Permit No. 369-1440-01 to take various species of large whales and opportunistically take by Level B harassment other species of marine mammals, for purposes of scientific research.

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

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (508)281-9346; fax (508)281-9371; and

Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (813)570-5301; fax (813)570-5517.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 28, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 4178) that an amendment of Permit No. 369-1440-01, issued April 19, 1999 (64 FR 19135), 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 provisions of § 216.39 of 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 threatened and endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.226).

The amendment authorizes the applicant to tag and biopsy sample fin whales in international water in the Mediterranean Sea and extends the expiration date through October 2004.

Issuance of this amendment, 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 the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: May 13, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

[Docket No.: 030423100-3100-01]

The United States-Greek Initiative for Technology Cooperation With the Balkans (ITCB)'s Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Advisory Council

AGENCY: Technology Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations for joint council member.

SUMMARY: The Technology Administration invites nominations of individuals for appointment to a vacancy on the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Advisory Council established under a Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of Commerce and the Greek Ministry of National Economy concerning technology cooperation with the Balkans. The Technology Administration also invites nominations for appointment of three alternate Joint Council members. The Technology Administration will consider all nominations received in response to this notice.

DATES: Nominations must be received at the address below by no later than June 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Please submit nominations to Ken Ferguson, ITCB Program Officer, Office of Technology Policy, Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4411, 14th and Constitution Avenues, NW., Washington, DC 20230. Nominations may also be submitted by fax or e-mail to Ken Ferguson, ITCB Program Officer at 202-219-3310 or kferguson@ta.doc.gov if followed up with a hard copy sent by mail or courier.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Ferguson, ITCB Program Officer, telephone: 202-482-0150; fax: 202-219-3310, e-mail: kferguson@ta.doc.gov.

Goals of the Memorandum of Understanding

On January 17, 1998, the United States Department of Commerce and the

Greek Ministry of National Economy (hereinafter known as the "Participants") entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning technology cooperation with the Balkans, to be known as "The United States-Greek Initiative for Technology Cooperation with the Balkans" (ITCB). A Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Advisory Council (hereinafter "the Joint Council") operates under the MOU.

The Participants recognize that working together to foster collaborative and mutually beneficial technology cooperation with countries in the Balkan region will provide economic benefits to the Balkan region, the United States and Greece. The goal of the Participants is to foster collaboration among public and private entities in the Participants' countries with public and private entities in the Balkan region in order to enhance scientific and technological capabilities in the Balkan region, enhance the relationship between U.S. and Greek public and private sector entities, and promote the development of stable, free market economies in the Balkan region. Emphasis is placed on both the fostering of the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge and personnel, and on building private sector technology capacities of Balkan ITCB member states through partnership with U.S. and Greek business. For the purposes of the MOU, countries in the Balkan region that are currently members of the ITCB are: Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Membership may expand to other countries in the region that the Participants may mutually agree to include.

Cooperative Activities

Cooperative activities under this MOU include: Coordinated and joint research and technology projects, studies, and investigations; joint technological courses, workshops, conferences and symposia; exchanges of science and technology information and documentation in the context of cooperative activities; exchanges of scientists, specialists, and researchers; exchanges or sharing of equipment or materials; and other forms of scientific and technological cooperation that may be deemed appropriate. One of the goals is to create three-way partnerships between private and public technology companies, non-governmental organizations and other institutions from Greece, the United States and Balkan member states of the ITCB. Cooperative activities should reflect technological strengths in the United