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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve is a new marine protected area designed to conserve and protect the coral reef ecosystem and related natural and cultural resources of the area. The Reserve was established by Executive Order pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Amendments Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-513). The NWHI Reserve was established by Executive Order 13178 (12/00), as finalized by Executive Order 13196 (1/01).

The Reserve encompasses an area of the marine waters and submerged lands of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, extending approximately 1200 nautical miles long and 100 nautical miles wide. The Reserve is adjacent to and seaward of the seaward boundary of Hawaii State waters and submerged lands and the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, and includes the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge to the extent that any such refuge waters extends beyond Hawaii State waters and submerged lands. The Reserve is managed by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and the Executive Orders. The Secretary has also initiated the process to designate the Reserve as a National Marine Sanctuary. The management principles and implementation strategy and requirements for the Reserve are found in the enabling Executive Orders, which are part of the application kit and can be found on the Web site listed above.

In designating the Reserve, the Secretary of Commerce was directed to establish a Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council, pursuant to section 315 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, to provide advice and recommendations on the development of the Reserve Operations Plan and the proposal to designate and manage a Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary by the Secretary.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) has established the Reserve Advisory Council and is now accepting applications from interested individuals for a Council Representative for the following citizen/constituent position on the Council:

1. One (1) representative from the Native Hawaiian community with experience or knowledge regarding Native Hawaiian subsistence, cultural, religious, or other activities in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Current Reserve Council Representatives and Alternates may apply for this vacant seat.

The Council consists of 25 members, 14 of which are non-government voting members (the State of Hawaii representative is a voting member) and 10 of which are government non-voting members. The voting members are representatives of the following constituencies: Conservation, Citizen-At-Large, Ocean-Related Tourism, Recreational Fishing, Research, Commercial Fishing, Education, State of Hawaii and Native Hawaiian. The government non-voting seats are represented by the following agencies: Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, Department of State, Marine Mammal Commission, NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, National Science Foundation, U.S. Coast Guard, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, and NOAA's National Ocean Service.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. Sections 1431, *et seq.*  
(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: August 29, 2003.

**Richard W. Spinrad,**  
*Assistant Administrator, Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081303B]

#### Marine Mammals; File Nos. 704-1698 and 1044-1706

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of applications for permits.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have applied in due form for a permit to take marine mammals parts from species of marine mammals under NMFS jurisdiction for purposes of scientific research: The University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, P.O. Box 756960, Fairbanks, AK 99775 (Dr. Gordon Jarrell, Principal Investigator (PI)); and The Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission (TASSC), 6239 B Street, Suite 204, Anchorage, AK 99518 (Dr. Dolly Garza, PI).

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments on the new applications must be received on or before October 8, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** The applications and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

All documents: 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; 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 Jennifer Skidmore, 301/713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permits are 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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Applications for permits:

File No. 704-1698: The University of Alaska Museum proposes to acquire, import and export specimen samples (whole carcasses; hard and soft parts) from all marine mammal species (pinnipeds and cetaceans) under NMFS jurisdiction. An unlimited number of samples would be taken from the following: 1) stranded marine mammal carcasses; 2) marine mammals taken by Alaskan Native subsistence hunters; and 3) specimens from permitted scientists in academic, federal, and state institutions involved in marine mammal research. Importation and exportation are requested in order to provide specimens to the international scientific community and bring legally acquired specimens from other museums and scientific donations. The objective of this application is to obtain authorization to archive specimens for future bona fide research at the University of Alaska and other institutions in the U.S. and world-wide. The applicant has requested a five-year permit.

File No. 1044-1706: TASSC proposes to receive parts and tissues from stranded marine mammals collected by coastal Alaska Native subsistence users and those from legally subsistence hunted Steller sea lions and other