PRT–770191
Applicant: Jacksonville Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jacksonville, FL.
The applicant requests renewal of their permit to salvage dead specimens and rescue, provide medical treatment (including routine sampling for diagnostic & treatment purposes), rehabilitate and, if feasible, release rehabilitated West Indian manatees (Trichechus manatus) to the wild for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

PRT–071799
Applicant: Jennifer L. Miksis, University of Rhode Island, Narragansett, RI.
The applicant requests a permit to take by harassment up to 75 wild West Indian manatees (Trichechus manatus) by exposing them to the acoustic playback of boat noise and observing the behavioral responses for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register, the Division of Management Authority is forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

PRT–073841
Applicant: Ryan C. Hoerauf, Odessa, TX.
The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (Ursus maritimus) sport hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

PRT–072820
Applicant: Joe. P. Murphy, Santa Rosa, CA.
The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (Ursus maritimus) sport hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

PRT–073481
Applicant: Gerald E. Meyer, Sr., Waterford, WI.
The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (Ursus maritimus) sport hunted from the Southern Beaufort Sea polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

PRT–073526
Applicant: Robert E. Kastle, Denver, CO.
The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (Ursus maritimus) sport hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

PRT–073605
Applicant: Charles W. Walker, Gardena, CA.
The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (Ursus maritimus) sport hunted from the Northern Beaufort Sea polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

PRT–073795
Applicant: Chuck L. Raleigh, Seagoville, TX.
The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (Ursus maritimus) sport hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has information collection approval from OMB through March 31, 2004, OMB Control Number 1018–0093. Federal Agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.


Michael S. Moore,
Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 03–17427 Filed 7–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permits for [Marine Mammals and/or 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 700, 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.), and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 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.]

Endangered Species

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<td>068965</td>
<td>Sea-El Carmen</td>
<td>68 FR 15478; March 31, 2003</td>
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Marine Mammals

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<td>070875</td>
<td>Paul L. Van Dam</td>
<td>68 FR 25620; May 13, 2003</td>
<td>June 25, 2003</td>
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<td>070954</td>
<td>John J. Michelotti</td>
<td>68 FR 25620; May 13, 2003</td>
<td>June 24, 2003</td>
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-day Finding for a Petition To List a Distinct Population Segment of the Fisher in its West Coast Range as Endangered and To Designate Critical Habitat

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of 90-day petition finding and initiation of status review.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce a 90-day finding for a petition to list a distinct population segment (DPS) of the fisher (Martes pennanti) in its West Coast range, including portions of California, Oregon, and Washington, as endangered and to concurrently initiate a review of the status of the species involved.

DATES: The finding announced in this document was made on July 3, 2003. To be considered in the 12-month finding on this petition, comments and information should be submitted to us by September 8, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jesse Wild, at the address given above (telephone 916/414–6600; facsimile 916/414–6713; electronic mail: fisher@fws.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Fishers occur in the northern coniferous and mixed forests of Canada and northern contiguous United States, from the mountainous areas in the southern Yukon and Labrador Provinces in Canada southward to central California and Wyoming, the Great Lakes, New England, and Appalachian regions (Graham and Graham 1994; Powell 1994). The current distribution of fishers is much reduced from the historical distribution (Gibilisco 1994). The distribution has recovered since the 1950s in some of the central and northeastern areas, a change attributed to factors such as trapping closures and reintroductions (Brander and Books 1973; Powell and Zielinski 1994).

In Washington, Oregon, and California, fishers probably occupied most coniferous forest habitats prior to extensive settlement by Europeans (Grinnell et al. 1937; Bailey 1936 and Dalquest 1948 as cited in Aubry and Lewis in press 2003). They use low-to mid-elevational forests up to 8,200 feet (2,500 meters (m)) (Grinnell et al. 1937; Schempf and White 1977; Aubry and Houston 1992). Extensive trapping in the 1800s and 1900s is frequently cited as the principal initial cause of the substantial reduction of the range of the fisher in all three States. Commercial trapping of the fisher has been prohibited in each of these States for decades. Other factors consistently identified as contributing to the reduction of the fisher’s distribution in these states include the alteration of forest habitats as a result of logging and conversion to other land uses (e.g., Grinnell et al. 1937; Powell 1993; Powell and Zielinski 1994; Lewis and Stinson 1998; U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service 2000).

In Washington, the fisher historically occurred both east and west of the Cascade Crest (Scheffer 1938; Aubry and Houston 1992), in the Olympic Peninsula, and probably in southwestern and northeastern Washington (Lewis and Stinson 1998). An estimated 15 million acres (ac) (60,700 square kilometers (km²)), or 60 percent of the forested landscape in the State, was potential fisher habitat when European settlers arrived (Lewis and Stinson 1998). Based on extensive surveys and a lack of recent sightings or trapping reports, the fisher is considered to have been extirpated or reduced to scattered individuals in Washington (Aubry and Houston 1992; Lewis and Stinson 1998). The State has listed the fisher as endangered (WAC 232–12–297).