

including NIST, with the authority to enter into cooperative research agreements (CRDAs) with qualified parties. Under this law, NIST may contribute personnel, equipment and facilities—but no funds—to the cooperative research program. Contributions from other participants may include funding, personnel, facilities and equipment. This is not a grant program. This program is covered by 15 CFR part 26, Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension.

DATES: Interested parties should respond in writing at the address shown below no later than February 24, 1991.

ADDRESSES: Dr. Francis J. Schima, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Radiation Physics Building Rm C114, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Francis J. Schima, (301) 975-5537.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: (1) NIST has the following equipment available for the effort:

- Two magnets with power supplies
- Main acceleration cavity
- RF power supply with control system computer
- Beam insertion system with control system computer
- Injector power supplies
- Pre-accelerator
- Associated vacuum systems with control computer

(2) NIST has no funding or personnel to contribute to the effort.

(3) While NIST finds it difficult to quantify the size of the contribution required of the collaborator, completion of the facility alone—even before it begins operation—will be a major effort requiring a multiyear commitment of qualified personnel and substantial resources.

(4) Because of the nature of the facility, NIST will be able to work with only one collaborator or group of collaborators.

(5) NIST will select its collaborator or group of collaborators from among the respondents to its notice based on NIST's evaluation of the probability of success in completing and operating the RTM.

(6) Responses from interested parties should address the resources and qualified personnel the party will have available and any other information that will permit NIST to assess the probability of success.

(7) Interested parties may request an RTM Fact Sheet and a tour of the facility from the above contact.

This notice does not contain a collection of information for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Dated: August 20, 1991.

John W. Lyons,
Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Subsistence Taking of Northern Fur Seals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.
ACTION: Notice of the 1991 subsistence fur seal harvest outcome.

SUMMARY: This notice briefly summarizes the outcome of the 1991 subsistence fur seal harvest on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

DATES: Comments are invited through September 30, 1991.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Dr. Aleta Hohn or Lynne Harris, NMFS Office of Protected Resources (F/PR1), 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynne Harris or Dr. Aleta Hohn (301) 427-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 1, 1991, NMFS issued a final notice of harvest estimates for the annual subsistence fur seal harvest in the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. (56 FR 36735). Actual harvesting of fur seals began on June 30 pursuant to the Fur Seal Act regulations governing the subsistence taking of fur seals by native Alaskans, found at 50 CFR 215.31 *et seq.* On Saturday, July 27, each island reached the lower end of the specified harvest estimates (181 seals on St. George Island, 1145 seals on St. Paul). The regulations require the harvest to be suspended if the lower bound of the harvest estimate is reached, to allow for re-evaluation of subsistence need as provided by 50 CFR 215.32 (e). This suspension is to last no more than 48 hours, during which time the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries is to review the harvest data and determine whether the subsistence needs of the Pribilovians have been met by attaining the lower end of the harvest estimate. If the subsistence needs of the Pribilovians have not been met, the Assistant Administrator must estimate the number of additional seals necessary to meet the remaining needs.

On Friday, July 26, NMFS received word from the chief observer on St. Paul that the Pribilovians on both islands would very likely reach the lower end of the subsistence harvest estimates for

each island soon. In response, NMFS sent a letter to the Pribilovians outlining the type of information NMFS would require to make a determination of remaining subsistence need if the Pribilovians intended to request additional animals.

On Saturday, July 27, both St. Paul and St. George reached the lower end of their respective harvest estimates. The observers present stopped each harvest at that point. The Assistant Administrator was notified of these events on July 29, and later that same day NMFS received formal requests for additional seals from both St. Paul and St. George. On July 30, NMFS requested additional information from the Pribilovians to substantiate their requests. This information was received later that same day. After considering the information presented by the Pribilovians, the information provided by NMFS harvest observers and all harvest data collected during the first 4 weeks of the harvest, the Assistant Administrator authorized the harvesting of up to 100 additional animals on St. George and up to 500 additional animals on St. Paul. This decision was effective on July 31.

Late in the afternoon on July 31, NMFS received notice from the Humane Society of the United States of their intention to file a motion for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to halt the additional harvesting authorized on St. George and St. Paul. Two hearings were held in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on August 1. During the first of these hearings, the Court requested that NMFS suspend any further harvesting activity in the Pribilof's pending the Court's final decision. The Assistant Administrator immediately announced this suspension to the Pribilovians.

After the hearings and the submission of briefs by both sides, the Court entered an order denying the plaintiff's motion for a TRO. The order was entered at 5:24 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on August 2. The Pribilovians were immediately notified of the outcome of the proceedings and the harvest was allowed to resume. The harvest concluded on August 8.

The total number of fur seals taken during the 1991 subsistence harvest in the Pribilof Islands is as follows: St. George—281, St. Paul—1645.

NMFS has announced its intent to re-evaluate the current methods used to determine subsistence need and measure waste as they relate to the subsistence fur seal harvest of the Pribilof Islands.