

For the reasons set out in the preamble, NMFS amends 50 CFR part 216 as follows:

**PART 216—REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE TAKING AND IMPORTING
OF MARINE MAMMALS**

1. The authority citation for part 216 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, unless otherwise noted.

2. Revise § 216.82 to read as follows:

§ 216.82 Dogs prohibited.

(a) In order to prevent molestation of fur seal herds, the landing of any dogs at Pribilof Islands is prohibited.

(b) The NMFS Alaska Regional Administrator may authorize the landing of independently certified and trained rodent detection dogs on an island in the Pribilof Islands, subject to the following:

(1) A Pribilof Island landowner must submit a request for authorization to land a rodent detection dog on a Pribilof Island in writing to the NMFS Alaska Regional Administrator and must include the following information:

(i) Independent certification by an accredited canine scent detection association, company, or organization that the dog has been trained for rodent detection;

(ii) Certification that the dog will be under the constant voice, electronic, or leash control of a professional dog handler, or otherwise confined, while on the Pribilof Island;

(iii) Proof that the dog has undergone any quarantine period required by the State of Alaska;

(iv) Current immunization and health certifications required by the State of Alaska and NMFS Alaska Regional Administrator;

(v) The number of dogs expected to be used;

(vi) The professional dog handler's written plan for collecting and incinerating dog feces;

(vii) The expected duration and location of rodent searches on the Pribilof Island; and

(viii) Any other information requested by the Alaska Regional Administrator.

(2) After receipt of a complete request, within 10 days, the NMFS Alaska Regional Administrator may authorize the landing of one or more independently certified and trained rodent detection dogs and impose any additional conditions on their use on the specified Pribilof Island.

(3) No independently certified and trained rodent detection dog authorized by the NMFS Alaska Regional Administrator may be on the specified Pribilof Island for more than 180 total days from landing on that Island.