

prevent the depletion of each strategic stock of marine mammal and which interacts with a commercial fishery. Section 118(f)(6)(C) states that members of the TRTs shall have expertise regarding the conservation or biology of the marine mammal species that the take reduction plan will address, or the fishing practices that result in the incidental mortality and serious injury of such species.

The MMPA further specifies that members of the TRT shall include representatives of Federal agencies, each coastal state with fisheries that interact with the species or stock, appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, interstate fisheries commissions, academic and scientific organizations, environmental groups, all commercial and recreational fisheries groups and gear types that incidentally take the species or stock, Alaska Native organizations, or Indian tribal organizations, and others as the Secretary of Commerce deems appropriate.

As a result of draft stock assessment reviews developed under section 117 of the MMPA, and as a result of an extended interview process conducted by a NMFS-contracted facilitator, NMFS, through a letter dated November 1995, has asked the following individuals to be a member of a TRT focusing on reducing bycatch of harbor porpoise in the GME sink-gillnet fishery:

Erik Anderson, New Hampshire Commercial Fishermens Association; Janice Anderson-Comeau, Massachusetts Netter's Association; Jennifer Atkinson, Conservation Law Foundation; Tina Berger, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; Jeannette Bubar, Maine Gillnetter's Association; Kevin Chu, NMFS Regional Office; Paul Cohan, Cape Ann Gillnetter's Association; Jeremy Conway, Department of Fisheries and Oceans-Canada; Russell DeConti, Center for Coastal Studies; Chris Finlayson, Maine Department of Natural Resources; Patricia Fiorelli, New England Fishery Management Council; James Gilbert, University of Maine; Cathy Homstead, Maine Gillnetter's Association; Scott Kraus, New England Aquarium; David Laist, Marine Mammal Commission; Robert MacKinnon, Massachusetts Netter's Association; Michael Payne, NMFS Office of Protected Resources; David Pierce, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries; Andrew Read, Duke University; Bruce Smith, New Hampshire Fish and Game; Ron Smolowitz, East Falmouth, MA; Terry Stockwell, Maine Gillnetter's Association; April Valliere, Rhode

Island Division of Fish and Wildlife; David Wiley, International Wildlife Coalition; John Williamson, New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association; Nina Young, Center for Marine Conservation; Sharon Young, The Humane Society of the United States. The TRT will be facilitated by Abby Arnold, RESOLVE-Center for Environmental Dispute Resolution, Washington, D.C.

NMFS fully intends to convene a TRT process in a way that provides for national consistency yet accommodates the unique regional needs and characteristics of any one team. TRTs are not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 App. U.S.C.). Meetings are open to the public.

Section 118 (6)(A)(ii) also requires NMFS to publish the range of the strategic marine mammal stock, and all commercial fisheries that cause incidental mortality and serious injury from such stock. The GME population (stock) of harbor porpoise ranges from the Bay of Fundy, Canada (summer distribution), south to at least North Carolina in the winter until late spring. The GME sink-gillnet fishery interacts with this stock throughout the year, but the estimated bycatch from this fishery is greatest during fall and spring. The interactions (estimated bycatch) by this fishery with harbor porpoise are greater than those of all other fisheries combined.

Harbor porpoise are also known to interact with a series of coastal gillnet fisheries that operate, primarily, in state waters from New Jersey south to North Carolina. The extent (number of takes) of these interactions is not known; however, the greatest number of interactions (based on strandings data) in these fisheries occurs from mid-March through May in North Carolina and Virginia. These interactions will not be considered by this TRT, because they occur in markedly different fisheries from the GME sink-gillnet fishery and primarily in state waters, which are under a different jurisdiction from the GME sink-gillnet fishery. Another TRT, or a different management process focusing on management of state fisheries, will address the bycatch of harbor porpoise in the mid-Atlantic coastal gillnet fisheries.

Dated: February 6, 1996.

Patricia A. Montanio,
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020696C]

Pacific Offshore Fisheries Take Reduction Team Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Take Reduction Team (TRT) for the Pacific offshore cetacean/drift gillnet fishery will hold its first meeting to develop a Take Reduction Plan (TRP) as described in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) focusing on reducing bycatch in the California/Oregon drift gillnet fishery for thresher shark and swordfish.

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 13 and 14, 1996, at 10 a.m. and 9 a.m., until 5:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The TRT meeting will be held at the Crown Sterling Suites Hotel at Los Angeles International Airport, 1440 East Imperial Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245, (310) 640-3600.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Irma Lagomarsino, (310) 980-4016, or Victoria Cornish, (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 30, 1994, the 1994 Amendments to the MMPA were signed into law. Section 117 of the MMPA requires that NMFS complete stock assessment reports for all marine mammal stocks within U.S. waters. Each stock assessment report is required to categorize the status of the stock as one that either has a level of human-caused mortality and serious injury that is not likely to cause the stock to be reduced below its optimum sustainable population; or is a strategic stock, with a description of the reasons therefore; and estimate the potential biological removal (PBR) level for the stock, describing the information used to calculate it, including the recovery factor. Stock Assessment Reports and the calculated PBR were published by NMFS in July 1995.

The MMPA defines a "strategic stock" as a marine mammal stock for which the level of direct human-caused mortality exceeds the PBR level; which, based on the best available scientific information, is declining and is likely to be listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) within the foreseeable future; which is listed as a threatened species or endangered species under the ESA, or is designated as depleted under the MMPA. The MMPA further defines the term "potential biological removal," or

PBR, as "the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population." The California/Oregon drift gillnet fishery for thresher shark and swordfish interacts with several strategic marine mammal stocks including: Several *Mesoplodon* species of beaked whales, Baird's beaked whale, Cuvier's beaked whale, the sperm whale, the humpback whale, the pygmy sperm whale, and the short-finned pilot whale. These stocks are considered strategic under the MMPA because they are either listed as an endangered or threatened species under the ESA or because the level of human-caused mortality is greater than their PBR levels.

Section 118(f) of the MMPA requires NMFS to establish a TRT to prepare a draft TRP designed to assist in the recovery or prevent the depletion of each strategic marine mammal stock that interacts with certain fisheries. Section 118(f)(6)(C) requires that members of the TRTs have expertise regarding the conservation or biology of the marine mammal species that the TRP will address, or the fishing practices that result in the incidental mortality and serious injury of such species. The MMPA further specifies that members of the TRT shall include representatives of Federal agencies, each coastal state with fisheries that interact with the species or stock, appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, interstate fisheries commissions, academic and scientific organizations, environmental groups, all commercial and recreational fisheries groups and gear types which incidentally take the species or stock, Alaska Native organizations, or Indian tribal organizations, and others as the Secretary of Commerce deems appropriate.

As a result of stock assessment reports developed under section 117 of the MMPA, and an extended interview process conducted by a NMFS-contracted facilitator, NMFS, through a letter dated February 1996, has asked the following individuals to be a member of the TRT, which will focus on reducing bycatch of the strategic marine mammals stocks taken as bycatch in the California/Oregon drift gillnet fishery for thresher shark and swordfish:

Doyle Hanan, California Department of Fish and Game; Marilyn Beeson, California Department of Fish and Game; Dave Hanson, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission; Anthony West, California Gillnetters Association; Chuck Janisse, Pacific Offshore

Fishermen's Association; Lynn Stephy, drift gillnet fisher; Orville Gardner, drift gillnet fisher; John Heyning, Los Angeles Museum of Natural History; John Calambokidis, Cascadia Research Collective; Sus Kato, retired research fishery biologist; Marcie Glazer, Center for Marine Conservation; Ann Niohoff, Natural Resources Defense Council; Hannah Bernard, Hui Moana; Irma Lagomarsino, NMFS Southwest Regional Office; Jay Barlow, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center; David Holts, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center. The TRT will be facilitated by Alana Knaster, Mediation Institute, Woodland Hills, CA.

NMFS fully intends to convene a TRT process in a way that provides for national consistency yet accommodates the unique regional needs and characteristics of any one team. TRTs are not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 App. U.S.C.). Meetings are open to the public.

Dated: February 6, 1996.

Patricia A. Montanio,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Applications of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for Designation as a Contract Market in Futures and Options on Brazilian "C" Brady Bonds, Brazilian "EI" Brady Bonds, and Argentine "FRB" Brady Bonds

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the terms and conditions of proposed commodity futures and option contracts.

SUMMARY: The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME or Exchange) has applied for designation as a contract market in futures and futures options on Brazilian "C" Brady Bonds, Brazilian "EI" Brady Bonds, and Argentine "FRB" Brady Bonds. The Acting Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposals for comment is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581. Reference should be made to the CME futures and options on Brazilian "C" Brady Bonds, Brazilian "EI" Brady Bonds, and Argentine "FRB" Brady Bonds.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact Stephen Sherrrod of the Division of Economic Analysis, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, Washington, DC, 20581, telephone 202-418-5277.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Exchange's proposed Brady bond contracts are based on the sovereign debt of Argentina and Brazil. The Exchange has petitioned the SEC to grant the sovereign debt of Argentina and Brazil exempt status under SEC Rule 240.3a12-8. The SEC published the proposed amendment to Rule 240.3a12-8 in the Federal Register for a 30-day public comment period on December 20, 1995. Should the SEC add the sovereign debt of Argentina and Brazil to the list of exempted securities, the Commission would then be able to designate futures on such securities. See Section 2(a)(1)(B)(v) of the Act.

Copies of the terms and conditions will be available for inspection at the Office of the Secretariat, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street Washington, D.C. 20581. Copies of the terms and conditions can be obtained through the Office of the Secretariat by mail at the above address or by phone at (202) 418-5097.

Other materials submitted by the CME in support of the applications for contract market designation may be available upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Commission's regulations thereunder (17 CFR Part 145 (1987)), except to the extent they are entitled to confidential treatment as set forth in 17 CFR 145.5 and 145.9. Requests for copies of such materials should be made to the FOI, Privacy and Sunshine Act Compliance Staff of the Office of the Secretariat at the Commission's headquarters in accordance with 17 CFR 145.7 and 145.8.

Any person interested in submitting written data, views, or arguments on the proposed terms and conditions, or with respect to other materials submitted by the CME, should send such comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity