

LLVs is expected to result at worst, in a temporary reduction in utilization of the haulout as seals leave the beach for the safety of the water. The launching is not expected to result in any reduction in the number of harbor seals, and they are expected to continue to occupy the same area. In addition, there will not be any impact on the habitat itself. Based upon studies conducted for previous space vehicle launches at Vandenberg, significant long-term impacts on harbor seals at Vandenberg are unlikely.

#### Proposed Authorization

NMFS proposes to issue an incidental harassment authorization for 1 year for launches of LLVs at SLC-6 provided the monitoring and reporting requirements currently in effect are continued. NMFS has preliminarily determined that the proposed launches of LLVs at SLC-6 would result in the harassment taking of only small numbers of harbor seals, will have a negligible impact on the harbor seal stock and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability for subsistence uses.

#### Information Sought

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments, information, and suggestions concerning this request (see ADDRESSES).

Dated: April 25, 1996.

Patricia A. Montanio,  
*Acting Office Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 96-10867 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

#### [I.D. 042296B]

#### **Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public meeting of its salmon stock review team for Puget Sound chinook and Strait of Juan de Fuca coho salmon stocks.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on May 15, 1996, beginning at 10 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Point-No-Point Treaty Council office, 7999 NE Salish Lane, Kingston, WA 98346; telephone: (360) 297-3422.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Coon, Fishery Management Coordinator (Salmon); telephone: (503) 326-6352.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of this meeting is to complete a review of the status of some Puget Sound chinook and Strait of Juan de Fuca coho stocks as required under the Council's salmon fishery management plan when a stock fails to meet its spawning escapement objective for three consecutive years. This meeting will focus on Strait of Juan de Fuca coho.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Lawrence D. Six at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 24, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,  
*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 96-10842 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

#### [I.D. 042396A]

#### **Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public meeting of an ad-hoc work group to review, prioritize and recommend a schedule for developing amendments to the salmon fishery management plan.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on May 13, 1996, beginning at 10 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Council office.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Coon, Fishery Management Coordinator (Salmon); telephone: (503) 326-6352.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Several potential amendments to the salmon fishery management plan were raised during a scoping session at the Council's April 1996 meeting. Due to the number and complexity of the issues and the limited time available, the Council elected to convene a work group to provide an initial review of the amendment issues and provide

recommendations to the Council at the next Council meeting. The amendment issues include:

- (1) incorporating formal management objectives for stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act;
- (2) allowing the landing of salmon caught incidentally in the Pacific whiting trawl fishery for the purpose of monitoring the bycatch;
- (3) updating the framework plan;
- (4) responding to requirements resulting from the reauthorization of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act;
- (5) review of the overfishing definition; and
- (6) consideration of management recommendations from the recent National Research Council report on salmon.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Eric Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 23, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,  
*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 96-10843 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

#### [I.D. 042496A]

#### **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a joint public meeting of its Snapper Grouper Committee, Controlled Access Committee, Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel; and a joint meeting of its Executive and Finance Committees.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on May 20-22, 1996. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: (803) 571-1000.

*Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Buchanan, Public Information

Officer; telephone: (803) 571-4366; fax: (803) 769-4520; E-mail:

Susan\_Buchanan@safmc.nmfs.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Meeting Dates**

*May 20, 1996, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
and May 21, 1996, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.*

The Snapper Grouper and Controlled Access Committees will meet jointly with the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel to review the draft options paper for Amendment 9 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and develop recommendations for options to be included in the amendment for public hearing.

*May 21, 1996, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
and May 22, 1996, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.*

The Snapper Grouper and Controlled Access Committees will meet jointly with the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel to review a videotape on the Oculina Bank HAPC (Habitat Area of Particular Concern). They will then review the draft options paper for Amendment 8 to the Snapper Grouper FMP and develop recommendations for options to be included in the amendment for public hearing.

*May 22, 1996, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

The Executive and Finance Committees will meet jointly. The Executive Committee will review and develop recommendations for the Fiscal Year 1997 Council activities schedule. The Finance Committee will develop the Fiscal Year 1997 budget for presentation to the Council in June.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by May 14, 1996.

Dated: April 25, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries  
Conservation and Management, National  
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-10844 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

**Patent and Trademark Office**

**Notice of Hearing and Request for  
Comments on a Technical  
Documentation Strategy**

**AGENCY:** Patent and Trademark Office,  
Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a hearing and request  
for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) will hold a public hearing and is seeking written comments to obtain views of the public on the effort of the PTO to make technical documentation accessible to patent examiners and the public while adhering to certain constraints on financial and personnel resources. Interested members of the public are invited to testify at a public hearing and to present written comments on the topics outlined in this notice or on any aspect of this effort.

**DATES:** A public hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 31, 1996

Requests to present oral testimony at the public hearing should be received on or before May 30, 1996.

Any written comments by those persons offering testimony at the hearings and related to that testimony should be submitted on or before May 30, 1996.

Other written comments will be accepted until June 7, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearing will be held in the Commissioner's Conference Room (Room 912), Crystal Park Two, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

Persons wishing to speak at the hearings must notify Mr. Lee Schroeder, in writing marked to his attention at Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box 4, Washington, DC 20231, or by telephone (703) 305-9300 or by telefax at (703) 305-8885, in order to be placed on a list of speakers for the hearing.

Persons wishing to offer written comments should address those comments to the Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks, Box 4, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231, marked to the attention of Mr. Lee Schroeder.

Written comments and transcripts of the hearing will be available for public inspection in Room 902 of Crystal Park Two, at 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Lee Schroeder by telephone at (703) 305-9300, by telefax at (703) 305-8885 or by mail marked to his attention and addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box 4, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

1. Background

The PTO currently makes technical documentation (foreign and domestic patent and non-patent literature in many forms) available to persons within the PTO for use in the patent examination process. Much of the

documentation is accessible through use of the United States Patent Classification System (USPCS). The same documentation is made available to members of the public for use as a source of technical information or for other patent-related uses.

To better use the limited financial and personnel resources available to the PTO, certain changes have been made in the documentation area. Less emphasis is being placed on the continuing reclassification of the documentation in the USPCS and the classification of new foreign patent copies and more reliance is being placed on the classification efforts of other countries and the use of more sophisticated electronic search tools.

To be more specific, the PTO is placing increased reliance on the many commercial data bases of technical information as well as data bases maintained by the PTO. These data bases cover foreign and domestic patent and non-patent literature. The PTO is also placing increased reliance on the classifying, abstracting and summarizing efforts of documentation by both domestic and foreign private entities and also by foreign government or intergovernmental entities. Consequently, less reliance is being placed on the reclassification effort within the PTO. Also, the PTO no longer classifies new foreign patents in the USPCS.

The public's views are sought on the increased reliance on the work of others in the classifying, abstracting and summarizing of documentation and less reliance on the USPCS and classification efforts of persons within the PTO. Public views are also sought on the increased reliance on computerized searching aids, be they full text data bases or data bases of abstracted material, classified or not. Public views are also sought on placing increased reliance on data bases and other sources to at least identify such documents after which a full-text copy of the document could be obtained.

Written comments may be offered on the questions posed below. Comments will also be accepted on any other aspects of the approach of the PTO to make technical information available both to patent examiners and the public.

2. Questions for the Hearing

The public hearing will be held to receive comments on the following specific questions:

A. Are the classification efforts of others (using systems or data bases of classification different from the United States Patent Classification System) able to replace, or partially replace the