

of the Beaufort Sea will result, at worst, in a temporary modification in behavior by certain species of cetaceans. While behavioral modifications may be made by these species of cetaceans to avoid the resultant noise, this behavioral change is expected to have a negligible impact on the animals.

The number of potential incidental harassment takes will depend on the distribution and abundance of marine mammals (which vary annually due to variable ice conditions and other factors) in the area of seismic operations. Due to the distribution and abundance of marine mammals during the projected period of activity and the location of the proposed seismic activity in waters generally too shallow and distant from the edge of the pack ice for most marine mammals of concern, the number of potential harassment takings is estimated to be small. In addition, no take by injury and/or death is anticipated, and the potential for temporary or permanent hearing impairment will be avoided through incorporation of the mitigation measures described in the authorization.

Because bowhead whales are east of the seismic area in the Canadian Beaufort Sea until late August/early September, seismic activities are not expected to impact subsistence hunting of bowhead whales prior to that date. After September 1, 1996, BPXA will initiate aerial survey flights for bowhead whale assessments. Appropriate mitigation measures to avoid an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of bowhead whales for subsistence needs was the subject of consultation between BPXA and subsistence users. As a result of discussions between the two parties, a Plan of Cooperation has been concluded. This Plan consists of three main components: (1) Communications, (2) conflict avoidance, and (3) dispute resolution.

Summer seismic exploration in and near the Northstar Unit has a small potential to influence seal hunting activities by residents of Nuiqsut. However, NMFS believes that because (1) the peak sealing season is during the winter months, (2) the main summer sealing is off the Colville delta (west and inshore of Northstar), and (3) the zone of influence by seismic sources on beluga and seals is fairly small, the Northstar Unit seismic survey will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses.

Since NMFS is assured that the taking will not result in more than the incidental harassment (as defined by the MMPA Amendments of 1994) of small

numbers of certain species of marine mammals, would have only a negligible impact on these stocks, will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses, and would result in the least practicable impact on the stocks, NMFS has determined that the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) have been met and the authorization can be issued.

Authorization

Accordingly, NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization to BPXA for the above described seismic survey during the 1996 open water season provided the mitigation, monitoring and reporting requirements described in the authorization are undertaken.

Dated: July 18, 1996.

Patricia A. Montanio,
*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*
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[I.D. 071596D]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and their Coastal Migratory Committee with Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Bluefish Board, Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Committee (with Monitoring Committee and Advisors), and Law Enforcement Committee will hold public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on August 6-8, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn, 700 King Street, Wilmington, DE 19801; telephone: 302-655-0400 or 1-800-HOLIDAY.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: 302-674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David R. Keifer, Executive Director; telephone: 302-674-2331.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

August 6, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., the Coastal Migratory Committee and ASMFC Bluefish Board will meet.

August 6, 1996, from 10:00 a.m. until noon, the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and

Butterfish Monitoring Committee will meet. August 6, 1996, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., the Coastal Migratory Committee will meet as a Council Committee Of The Whole with the ASMFC Bluefish Board.

August 7, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m., the Council will meet at which time there will be a Stock Assessment Workshop.

August 7, 1996, from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Committee will meet as a Council Committee Of The Whole with Advisors.

August 7, 1996, from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., the Law Enforcement Committee will meet.

August 8, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. until approximately 1:30 p.m., the Council will meet.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Bluefish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 1, the 1997 bluefish management measures, review comments and recommendations for adoption of Amendment 6 and discuss 1997 specifications to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP, discuss filleting of fish at sea. Further, the Council will discuss and may adopt for public hearing purposes a regulatory amendment to the Scup FMP, and will consider and may adopt a resubmission of the disapproved quota provision of the Black Sea Bass FMP.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Council (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: July 19, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,
*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries
Conservation and Management, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*
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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Guaranteed Access Levels for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Dominican Republic

July 19, 1996.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).