

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 102996C]

Incidental Take of Marine Mammals; Bottlenose Dolphins and Spotted Dolphins

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of letters of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that letters of authorization to take bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to oil and gas structure removal activities were issued to Parker & Parsley Petroleum USA, Inc., 555 N. Carancahua, Corpus Christi, TX 78478 on October 17, 1996; Amoco Production Company, P.O. Box 50879, New Orleans, LA 70150 on October 24, 1996; and Oryx Energy Company, P.O. Box 2880, Dallas, Texas 75221-2880 on November 6, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The application and letter are available for review in the following offices: Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and the Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N, St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2055 or Charles Oravetz, Southeast Region (813) 570-5312.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term "taking" means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible

methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat, and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to oil and gas structure removal activities in the Gulf of Mexico were published on October 12, 1995 (60 FR 53139) and remain in effect until November 13, 2000.

Summary of Request

NMFS received requests for letters of authorization on October 15, 1996, from Parker & Parsley Petroleum USA, and on October 23, 1996, from Amoco Production Company and the Oryx Energy Company. These letters requested a take by harassment of a small number of bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to the described activity. Issuance of these letters of authorization are based on a finding that the total takings will have a negligible impact on the bottlenose and spotted dolphin stocks of the Gulf of Mexico.

Dated: November 6, 1996.

Patricia Montanio,
Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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[I.D. 110596E]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Demersal Species Committee, together with its Summer Flounder Advisors and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on November 25, 1996, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Days Inn, 4101 Island Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19153; telephone: 215-492-0400.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19901.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to discuss alternatives for summer flounder management to be included in Amendment 10 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is 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 date.

Dated: November 6, 1996.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-29049 Filed 11-12-96; 8:45 am]

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[I.D. 110596D]

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 will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on November 25, 1996, beginning at 11:00 a.m. and will continue until business for the day is completed. The meeting will reconvene on November 26, 1996, at 8:00 a.m. and will adjourn when business for the day is concluded.

ADDRESSES: The meetings 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: Lawrence D. Six, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting will be to develop options for long term management of the limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities.