

¹⁰ Low levels of bottlenose dolphin mortality (0–4 per year) incidental to commercial fisheries have been reported. It is unknown to which stock this mortality can be attributed.

¹¹ Estimates derived from stranded animals with signs of fishery interactions, and these could be either coastal or estuary stocks.

¹² This entry encompasses 33 stocks of bottlenose dolphins. All stocks are considered strategic; see the full report for information on individual stocks. The listed estimates for abundance, PBR and mortality are sums across all bays, sounds, and estuaries.

¹³ Although the calculated PBR is 5.0, the allowable take is zero due to findings under the ESA.

¹⁴ This value includes a species-specific minimum abundance estimate of 249 Blainville's beaked whales, *Mesoplodon densirostris*.

¹⁵ This PBR includes 2.5 Blainville's beaked whales.

¹⁶ This PBR has been adjusted because only 0.2% of this stock is estimated to be in U.S. waters.

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[I.D. 011097B]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet in Anchorage, Alaska the week of February 3, 1997. Other committee and workgroup meetings may be held on short notice during the week; notices will be posted at the meeting site. All meetings are open to the public with the exception of Council executive sessions to discuss personnel, international issues, and litigation. An executive session is tentatively scheduled for noon on February 7, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W. 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501–2252.

DATES: The Advisory Panel (AP) will begin on February 3, 1997 at 8:00 a.m.; the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin on February 3, 1997 at 1:00 p.m. The AP and SSC should conclude their meetings by February 6. The Council will meet jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries beginning at 8:00 a.m. on February 4, 1997, and begin their normal plenary session on February 5, 1997 at 8:00 a.m., concluding by February 9, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, telephone: (907) 271–2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda for the meetings will include the following subjects:

1. Reports from NMFS on the current status of the fisheries off Alaska, the status of Steller sea lions, and marine mammal research, and a special progress report on the Alaska Sealife Center.

2. Reports on halibut stocks, actions taken by the International Pacific

Halibut Commission, consideration of the need for revisions to the Halibut Area 4 Catch Sharing Plan, and discussion of seabird avoidance for the halibut individual fishery quota (IFQ) fishery.

3. Review and consider approval of initial analysis for halibut charterboat management.

4. Review of tasking mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including:

(a) Review development of a central title registry for IFQs;
(b) Review development of IFQ/Community Development Quota (CDQ) fee and loan programs; and
(c) Status report on National Academy of Sciences study of IFQ/CDQ programs and make-up of Secretary of Commerce's IFQ panel for the western United States.

5. Discussion of further direction on vessel bycatch allowances.

6. Final review of research priorities for 1997.

7. Discuss and comment on NMFS guidelines for describing and identifying essential fish habitat.

8. Approve revisions to the Council Standard Operating Procedures in response to Magnuson-Stevens Act amendments.

9. Groundfish issues to be discussed include:

(a) Final review of management options for the Gulf of Alaska pelagic shelf rockfish fisheries to be managed by the State of Alaska; and

(b) Discussion paper on rolling closures at sablefish survey sites in the Gulf of Alaska.

10. Staff tasking.

11. The agenda for the joint meeting of the Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries will include:

(a) Discussion of state crab management, including Adak pot limits, Bristol Bay red king crab size reductions and other Bristol Bay red king crab management options; and

(b) Discussion of the State's groundfish management plan.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen, 907–271–2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 14, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

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[I.D. 011397A]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Committee Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Ecosystem Committee will meet in Seattle, WA.

DATES: The meeting will be held on January 23–24, 1997. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on January 23, and will continue until 5:00 p.m. On January 24, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude by 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Room 2979, Building 4, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501–2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Witherell, telephone: (907) 271–2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will receive reports on various ecosystem-related programs and management regimes, research gaps, and current and potential links to fishery management.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen, (907) 271–2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 14, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

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