

586-7228 at least 3 days before the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. *et seq.*

Dated: March 13, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 97-6974 Filed 3-19-97; 8:45 am]

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[I.D. 031297B]

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of meetings of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC), Bycatch Subcommittee, from April 14 to April 15, 1997.

DATES: The meetings are scheduled as follows:

1. April 14, 1997, 1:00 p.m. - 5 p.m.
2. April 15, 1997, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Falmouth Inn, 824 Main Street, Falmouth, MA. Requests for special accommodations may be directed to MAFAC, Office of Operations, Management and Information, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Wheeler, Executive Secretary; telephone: (301) 713-2252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1982), notice is hereby given of meetings of MAFAC or MAFAC Subcommittees. MAFAC was established by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) on February 17, 1971, to advise the Secretary on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of Commerce. This Committee ensures that the living marine resource policies and programs of this Nation are adequate to meet the needs of commercial and recreational fisheries, and environmental, state, consumer, academic, and other national interests.

Matters To Be Considered

Matters to be considered include Bycatch Subcommittee business only:

April 14, 1997

(1) Briefing on NMFS Bycatch Task Force

(2) Briefing on Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Bycatch Initiatives

April 15, 1997

(1) Discussion of Impact of Magnuson-Stevens Act on bycatch considerations within the Fishery Management Plan process.

(2) Briefing and discussion of Take Reduction Team Efforts on Harbor Porpoise and Large Whale TRT efforts.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to MAFAC (see ADDRESSES).

Dated: March 14, 1997.

Charles Karnella,

Acting Director, Office of Operation,
Management and Information, National
Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-6982 Filed 3-19-97; 8:45 am]

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[I.D. 031297D]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings to discuss various issues.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

DATES: The Council meeting will be held April 8-11, 1997. Various advisory groups will be meeting on Monday, April 7. The Council meeting will begin on Tuesday, April 8, at 8 a.m., in a closed session (not open to the public) to discuss litigation and personnel matters. The open session begins at 8:30 a.m. The Council meeting reconvenes at 8 a.m., Wednesday through Friday, and will adjourn when Council business has been completed.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 401 East Millbrae Avenue, Millbrae, CA 94030, (415) 697-8735.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lawrence D. Six, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council Agenda

A. Call to Order

B. Salmon Management

1. Tentative Adoption of 1997 Ocean Salmon Management Measures for Analysis

2. Clarify Council Direction

3. Methodology Reviews for 1997

4. Identification of Stocks Not Meeting Escapement Goals for 3 Consecutive Years

5. Final Action on 1997 Measures - Including Halibut Incidental Catch

C. Habitat Issues

Report of Steering Group - Consider Adding Marine Habitat Expertise to Steering Group

D. Groundfish Management

1. Status of Federal Regulations Implementing Council Actions

2. Status of Fisheries and Inseason Management Adjustments

3. Revised Stock Assessment Process

4. Review of Harvest Policy

5. Development of Groundfish Fishery Capacity Reduction Program

6. Scoping for Plan Amendments

7. California Gillnet Regulations in the Exclusive Economic Zone

8. Status Report on Oregon Observer Program

9. Report of the Industry Meeting on Salmon Bycatch Avoidance in the Whiting Fishery

10. Composition of the Groundfish Advisory Panel

11. Member, Staff, and Agency Work Load

E. Administrative and Other Matters

1. Report of the Budget Committee

2. Status of Legislation

3. Draft Agenda for June 1997

Other Meetings

The Groundfish Management Team will meet on Monday, April 7, at 8 a.m. to discuss final action on Federal gillnet regulations off California, inseason management adjustments, and initiation of the plan amendment process to meet new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act.

The Salmon Technical Team will convene as necessary Monday, April 7-11, to address salmon management items on the Council agenda.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene on Monday, April 7, at 9 a.m., and Tuesday, April 8, at 8 a.m., to address scientific issues related to Council agenda items.

The Habitat Steering Group will convene on Monday, April 7, at 10 a.m.,

to address issues affecting the habitat of Council-managed species.

The Salmon Advisory Panel will convene on Monday, April 7, at 9 a.m., and will continue to meet throughout the week as necessary to address salmon management items on the Council agenda.

The Groundfish Advisory Panel will convene on Monday, April 7, at 1 p.m., and will continue to meet throughout the week as necessary to address groundfish management items on the Council agenda.

The Budget Committee will convene on Monday, April 7, at 3 p.m., to review the status of 1996 and 1997 Council budgets.

The Enforcement Consultants meet on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m., to address enforcement issues related to Council agenda items.

There will be a Salmon/Whiting Industry Meeting on Wednesday, April 9, to discuss salmon bycatch avoidance in the whiting fishery.

Detailed agendas for the above advisory meetings will be available after March 28, 1997.

Special Accommodations

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

Dated: March 13, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-6984 Filed 3-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 031397C]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of scientific research permit 1030.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that on March 12, 1997, NMFS issued Scientific Research Permit 1030 to Sarah V. Mitchell, of NOAA Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (P625), to take listed loggerhead sea turtles for the purpose of scientific research subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

ADDRESSES: The application, permit, and related documents are available for review by appointment in the following offices:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Room 13307, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813-893-3141).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice was published on January 17, 1997 (62 FR 2656) that an application had been filed by Sarah V. Mitchell, NOAA Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (P625), to take listed loggerhead sea turtles as authorized by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-222).

Issuance of this permit allows the applicant to take listed loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) for examination, tagging, observation, collection of morphometric measurements, and release. The purpose of the authorized research, as stated in the application, is to investigate population trends, migrations, habitat, and diving behavior of loggerhead turtles in the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: March 13, 1997.

Robert C. Ziobro,

Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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[I.D. 031397B]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 850-1342)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Lucy W. Keith, Boston University Marine Program, Broderick House/MBL, Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543, has applied in due form for a permit to take Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before April 21, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001); and

Protected Species Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396 (808/973-2987).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

The application requests authorization to capture, physically restrain, and radio tag (and possibly recapture for tag removal) up to 20 immature monk seals of either gender (10 weaned pups, and 10 juveniles up to 3 years of age) over an eight month period in 1997. The applicant also requests authorization to inadvertently harass up to 10 additional seals of any age and gender during the course of the tagging activities. Research activities will involve population assessment, disease assessment, recovery action, and pelagic ecology studies.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.