

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072197C]

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's (Council) Groundfish Management Team will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will begin on Monday, August 11, 1997 at 1:00 p.m. and will continue through Friday, August 15, 1997. The Tuesday through Friday sessions will begin at 8:00 a.m. and may go into the evening until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the conference room at the Council office, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Glock, Groundfish Fishery Management Coordinator; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the meeting is to review recent groundfish stock assessments and develop recommendations for 1998 harvest levels and management measures. Agenda items scheduled also include inseason management projections, as well as preparation and review of fishery management plan amendments to address essential fish habitat, bycatch, overfishing, and other provisions required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Groundfish Management Team will also discuss stock assessment and fishery evaluation preparation plans and assignments.

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: July 21, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. 97-19656 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072197F]

Marine Mammals; Public Display Permit (PHF# 870-1391)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that M&M Amusement Park, Calle Gilberto Rolin L16, Caguas, PR 00725, has applied in due form for a permit to import three South American sea lions (*Otaria flavescens*) and two Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), currently in the custody of Ricardo Roca, Waterland - Mundo Marino, Valle, Colombia, for purposes of a traveling public display exhibit in several Puerto Rican cities.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before August 25, 1997.

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

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

Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9731 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, (206/526-6150).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application, should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director, Office of Protected Resources.

Written comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by email or other electronic media.

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 (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant requests authorization to import five marine mammals, from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where they are currently on tour, to Puerto Rico for a similar traveling exhibit in the cities of San Juan, Ponce and Mayaguez. The applicant has applied for an Exhibitor's License from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) under the Animal Welfare Act. APHIS has conducted a pre-licensing inspection of the proposed site at Parque Luis Munoz Marin, Hato Rey, San Juan, and each subsequent site will be inspected by APHIS prior to the transport of the marine mammals. As any issues relating to the care and maintenance of captive marine mammals are within the purview of APHIS, under the AWA, a copy of the application is also being sent to APHIS for review.

Each exhibit site will be open to the public on a regularly scheduled basis with access that is not limited or restricted other than by charging an admission fee and will offer an educational program.

In addition to determining whether the applicant meets the public display criteria provided in sec. 104 (2)(a)(i-iii) of the MMPA, NMFS must determine whether the applicant has demonstrated that the proposed activity is humane and does not present any unnecessary risks to the health and welfare of marine mammals; that the proposed activity by itself or in combination with other activities, will not likely have a significant adverse impact on the species or stock; and that the applicant's expertise, facilities, and resources are adequate to accomplish successfully the objectives and activities stated in the application.

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.