

SUMMARY: The draft Recovery Plan for the North Pacific and North Atlantic blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) is available for review and comment by interested parties prior to preparing the final plan for approval and adoption by NMFS. The Plan was developed by a team of scientists from NMFS' Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC).

DATES: DATES: Comments on the draft Plan must be received on or before September 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources (F/PR), 1315 East-West

Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Copies of the Draft Blue Whale Recovery Plan are available upon request from F/PR, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Silber, NMFS/FPR, 301/713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that NMFS develop and implement recovery plans for the conservation and survival of threatened and endangered species under its jurisdiction, unless it is determined that such plans will not promote the conservation of the species. Accordingly, NMFS appointed a group of scientists at SWFSC to take part in the development of the Draft Recovery Plan for the North Pacific and North Atlantic Blue Whale. The Draft Recovery Plan discusses the natural history, current status of the species, and the known and potential human impacts on the species. Actions that would promote the recovery of the blue whale are identified and discussed in the draft plan. The Recovery Plan will be used to direct U.S. activities, as well as encourage international cooperation,

to promote the recovery of this endangered species.

Dated: July 29, 1997.

Patricia A. Montanio,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072597D]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Committee Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Vessel Bycatch Accountability Committee will meet August 21-22, 1997, beginning at 1:00 p.m. on August 21.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Nordby Conference Center, Fishermen's Terminal, Suite A, 1711 West Nickerson, Seattle, WA 98119.

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 has been tasked with identifying alternatives to be addressed in an analysis for a program to implement individual vessel bycatch accounting measures.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is 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: July 25, 1997.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 97-25]

36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Security Assistance Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Pub. L. 104-164 dated July 21, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. J. Hurd, DSAA/COMPT/CPD, (703) 604-6575.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 97-25, with attached transmittal and policy justification.

Dated: July 28, 1997.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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