

Dated: September 12, 1997.

**John J. Da Ponte, Jr.**

*Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-25106 Filed 9-19-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091697C]

#### Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council's (Council) Enforcement Committee will hold a meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on October 1, 1997, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., approximately.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Best Western Hotel Pierre, located at De Diego Ave., Santurce, Puerto Rico.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Muñoz Rivera Ave., Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577; telephone: (787) 766-5926.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will hold an Enforcement Committee meeting to discuss topics related to enforcement of the Queen Conch Fishery Management Plan and the proposed MCD off South of St. John, U.S.V.I.

The meeting is open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding the agenda issues.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Committee for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Committee action during this meeting. Committee action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or requests for sign

language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 16, 1997.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

[FR Doc. 97-25040 Filed 9-17-97; 9:19 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091597A]

#### Marine Mammals; Permit No. 836

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application for amendment and issuance of amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dr. Daniel P. Costa, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, California 95064, has requested an amendment to Permit No. 836, and an amendment has been issued authorizing the conduct of the proposed research.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before October 22, 1997.

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

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

Written comments for the record on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

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 e-mail or other electronic media.

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

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The subject amendment to permit no. 836, issued on May 19, 1993 (58 FR 29199) is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*).

Permit no. 836 authorizes the permit holder to, among other things, capture and instrument elephant seals (*(Mirounga angustirostris)*) at Ano Nuevo, CA and release them at sea up to 200 km from Ano Nuevo to study the effects of low frequency sounds under 1,000 Hz (ATOC). The permit holder has requested authorization to expand the research area to enable him to investigate the potential effect of the Navy's Surface Towed Array Surveillance System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) system on the behavior of elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*). The amendment request involves no increase in the number of animals currently authorized to be taken under the Permit. Nor does it involve any changes to the currently authorized experimental protocol.

The permit holder states that the operation of the LFA source will occur only between September 15, 1997 to October 11, 1997, and that a significant research opportunity will be lost if the requested authorization is not provided. Therefore, in light of the time constraints and the unique research opportunity that would otherwise be lost, pursuant to Section 104(c)(3)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and 50 CFR 216.33(e)(6) of the MMPA regulations, we issued an amendment to Permit No. 836 granting the authorization.

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.

Dated: September 11, 1997.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-25012 Filed 9-19-97; 8:45 am]

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