

Reporting

Caltrans will provide weekly reports to the Southwest Regional Administrator, NMFS, including a summary of the previous week's monitoring activities and an estimate of the number of harbor seals that may have been disturbed as a result of seismic retrofit construction activities. These reports will provide dates, time, tidal height, maximum number of harbor seals ashore, number of adults and sub-adults, number of females/males, number of redcoats, and any observed disturbances. A description of retrofit activities at the time of observation and any sound pressure level measurements made at the haulout will also be provided.

A draft interim report must be submitted to the Southwest Regional Administrator on August 1, 1998. A draft final report must be submitted to the Southwest Regional Administrator within 90 days after the expiration of Caltrans Incidental Harassment Authorization. A final report must be submitted to the Southwest Regional Administrator within 30 days after receiving comments from the Regional Administrator on the draft final report.

NEPA

NMFS has prepared an EA that concludes that the impacts of Caltrans' seismic retrofit construction of the Bridge will not have a significant impact on the human environment. A copy of the EA is available upon request (see ADDRESSES).

Conclusions

NMFS has determined that the short-term impact of the seismic retrofit construction of the Bridge, as described above, will result, at worst, in the temporary modification in behavior by harbor seals and possibly by some California sea lions. While behavioral modifications, including temporarily vacating the haul-out, may be made by these species to avoid the resultant visual and acoustic disturbance, this action is expected to have a negligible impact on the animals. In addition, no take by injury and/or death is anticipated, and harassment takes will be at the lowest level practicable due to incorporation of the mitigation measures mentioned above.

Since NMFS is assured that the taking will not result in more than the incidental harassment (as defined by the MMPA) of small numbers of Pacific harbor seals and possibly of California sea lions; would not have an unmitigatable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses; and would result in

the least practicable impact on the stocks, NMFS has determined that the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) have been met and the authorization can be issued. For the above reasons, NMFS has issued an IHA for a 1-year period beginning on the date noted above (see EFFECTIVE DATES) for the incidental harassment of harbor seals and California sea lions by the seismic retrofit of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, San Francisco Bay, California, provided the above mentioned monitoring and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: December 16, 1997.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

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

[FR Doc. 97-33387 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121797A]

Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act; Meeting

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

ACTION: Coordination meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will hold a joint meeting to discuss coordination of activities that support Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission coastal fisheries management plans under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Pub. L. 103-206) and the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (Pub. L. 102-103).

DATES: The meeting will convene on Thursday, January 15, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. and will adjourn at approximately 3:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

ADDRESSES: National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anne Lange, Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries, NMFS 8484 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Telephone: (301) 427-2014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS-USFWS hold semi-annual coordination meetings established under a Memorandum of Understanding to develop and implement a program to support interstate fishery management efforts associated with the Atlantic

Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. The main agenda items for this meeting are discussion of the 1996-1997 Workplan; an update on implementation of the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program; status of cooperative coastal/citizen tagging efforts; distribution of FY1998 Atlantic Coastal Act funds; a 1998 striped bass workshop; Striped Bass Act reauthorization; and ASMFC Fishery Management Plan work for 1998.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Lange (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 17, 1997.

Richard Schaefer,

Chief, Staff Office for Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-33473 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121597B]

Permits; Foreign Fishing

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of foreign fishing applications.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes for public review and comment summaries of applications submitted by the Government of Estonia and the Government of Lithuania requesting authorization to conduct fishing operations in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in 1998 under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, International Fisheries Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; and/or to the Regional Fishery Management Councils listed below:

Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906, (617) 231-0422;