

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 122297G]

Magnuson Act Provisions; Essential Fish Habitat; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS is convening a meeting of the west coast salmon essential fish habitat (EFH) technical team to review EFH descriptions for salmon and adverse affects on salmon EFH. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The EFH technical team meeting is on February 10, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be at the Park Plaza International Hotel - San Francisco, 1177 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Scordino, NMFS, 206-526-6143.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS is in the process of developing recommendations on EFH for west coast salmon in accordance with recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. EFH recommendations to be presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council for an amendment to the salmon fishery management plan include a description of EFH for coho salmon, chinook salmon, pink salmon and sockeye salmon; a description of adverse effects to EFH, including fishing and non-fishing threats; and a description of measures to ensure the conservation and enhancement of EFH.

NMFS has formed a technical team consisting of industry, state, tribal, university, and Federal individuals to provide technical input and advice on the development of the NMFS recommendations. The technical team met once before in November to review draft EFH documents. The February 10 EFH salmon technical team meeting will be open to the public and the public will have an opportunity to comment. EFH documents will be available at the meeting. EFH background material can also be found on the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission website at www.psmfc.org/efh.html.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other

auxiliary aids should be requested at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

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

Dated: January 5, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 98-619 Filed 1-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 122297H]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Essential Fish Habitat; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS is convening a meeting of the Pacific coast groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH) technical team to review EFH descriptions for groundfish and adverse effects on groundfish EFH. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The technical team meeting is on January 30, 1998, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Pacific Fishery Management Council offices, 2130 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 224, Portland, OR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yvonne deReynier, NMFS, 206-526-6120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS is in the process of developing recommendations on EFH for Pacific coast groundfish in accordance with recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. EFH recommendations to be presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council for an amendment to the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) include a description of EFH for groundfish species managed by the FMP; a description of adverse effects to EFH, including fishing and non-fishing threats; and a description of measures to ensure the conservation and enhancement of EFH.

NMFS has formed a technical team consisting of individuals from fishing industry, environmental, state, tribal, and Federal interests and agencies to provide technical input and advice on

the development of the NMFS recommendations. The technical team will meet on January 30 and in early March to review draft EFH documents as they are prepared. The first meeting of the technical team is scheduled for January 30, 1997, and will focus on the description of EFH. The meetings will be open to the public, and the public will have an opportunity to comment. EFH documents will be available at the meeting.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be requested at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

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

Dated: January 5, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 98-620 Filed 1-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 010698B]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and its Committee Chairmen; Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee; Habitat Committee and Coastal Migratory Committee, together with Habitat Advisors and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC); Executive Committee; Large Pelagics Committee; and Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Committee will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 1998 through Thursday, January 29, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Sheraton Atlantic City West, 6821 Black Horse Pike, Atlantic City West, NJ 08234, telephone: 1-800-782-9237.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New

Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: 302-674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David R. Keifer, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meetings are as follows:

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

8:00-10:00 a.m., the Committee Chairmen will meet.

10:00 a.m. until noon, the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee will meet.

1:00-5:00 p.m., the Habitat Committee (with Advisors and the SSC).

7:00 p.m., there will be a scoping meeting for Amendment 11 to the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan (FMP); Amendment 11 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP; and Amendment 7 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP.

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

8:00 a.m. until noon, Council will meet.

12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m., the Executive Committee will have a luncheon meeting.

1:30-2:00 p.m., Council will meet.

2:00-5:00 p.m., the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Committee will meet.

5:00-5:30 p.m., the Comprehensive Management Committee will meet.

7:00 p.m., there will be a Monkfish FMP Public Hearing.

Thursday, January 29, 1998

8:00-11:15 a.m., Council will meet at which time there will be a Stock Assessment Workshop which is scheduled to last approximately 2 hours.

Agenda items include: Reviewing the 1998 work schedule; demand forecasting as part of the surfclam and ocean quahog quota setting process; Interim final guidelines on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), nonfishing threats to EFH, description and identification of bluefish EFH, and fishing gear impacts on EFH; possible recommendations concerning proposed regulation changes for highly migratory species; revision to Election Policy in Statement of Operating Practices and Procedures (SOPPs), review SOPPs regarding Council-staff interaction, and possible adoption of a revised 1998 budget; discuss Amendment 7 (particularly mackerel entry limitation) for Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish; and discuss vessel replacement criteria and scup/*Loligo* interaction.

The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change as necessary;

other items may be added. These meetings may also be closed at any time to discuss employment or other internal administrative matters.

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

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 6, 1998.

George H. Darcy,

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

[FR Doc. 98-699 Filed 1-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 010598A]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 774-1439)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Robert L. Brownell, Jr., NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, P.O. Box 271, La Jolla, CA 92038, has applied in due form for a permit to take marine mammals of several species for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before February 11, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The application 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 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221);

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

Protected Species Program Manager, Pacific Area Office, 2570 Dole St., Rm. 106, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396 (808/973-2987).

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, 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 particular request would be appropriate.

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.

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.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 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).

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.

The purpose of the proposed research is to collect data to estimate abundance by species and to determine population structure for these species. Research surveys will be conducted in U.S. territorial and international waters over a five-year period and harassment of several marine mammal species may occur in the form of vessel approach, helicopter and small plane photogrammetry, biopsy sample collection, photography, and tagging and tracking of individual animals.

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.