

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog  
11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program  
Administration.

Dated: January 21, 1998.

**Nancy Foster,**

*Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services  
and Coastal Zone.*

[FR Doc. 98-1937 Filed 1-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012198A]

#### Notice of Public Hearings on Individual Fishing Quotas

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that  
NMFS will hold three public meetings  
on Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQs) in  
compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens  
Fishery Conservation and Management  
Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) as  
amended by the Sustainable Fisheries  
Act of 1996. The meetings will be held  
in the Caribbean, South Atlantic and  
Western Pacific Council regions. These  
meetings supplement those held by the  
National Research Council (NRC) in the  
other five Council regions. Hearings  
have been scheduled for the Caribbean  
and South Atlantic Council regions; the  
schedule for the Western Pacific  
Council region will be announced at a  
later date.

**DATES:** The public hearing on IFQs for  
the Caribbean Council region will be on  
February 12, 1998, beginning at 1 p.m.;  
for the South Atlantic Council region,  
the hearing will be held on March 3,  
1998, beginning at 7 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Public hearings on IFQs for  
the Caribbean and South Atlantic  
Council regions will be held at the  
following locations, respectively: the  
Marriott's Frenchman's Reef Beach  
Resort, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands,  
telephone: 809-776-8500; Jekyll Island  
Club, 371 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island,  
Georgia, telephone: 912-635-2600.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Amy Gautam, NMFS, Office of Science  
and Technology; telephone: (301)713-  
2328.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Participants will be given five minutes  
each to provide a statement regarding  
any aspect of IFQ implementation  
identified in the study requirements of

the Magnuson-Stevens Act. All input  
will be provided to the NRC for use in  
preparation of its study of a national  
policy with respect to IFQs. The date  
and location of the public hearing in the  
Western Pacific Council region will be  
announced.

Dated: January 22, 1998.

**William W. Fox, Jr.**

*Director, Office of Science and Technology,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-1933 Filed 1-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011698B]

#### 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 (GMT)  
will hold a meeting which is open to the  
public.

**DATES:** The meeting will begin on  
Monday, February 9, 1998, at 1 p.m. and  
will continue through 4 p.m. Thursday,  
February 12, 1998. The Tuesday and  
Wednesday sessions will begin at 8 a.m.  
and may go into the evening until  
business for the day is completed. An  
opportunity for public comment will be  
provided at 4 p.m. each day of the  
meeting and 3 p.m. on Thursday.

**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  
purpose of the meeting is to develop a  
work plan for 1998 and to prepare  
technical advice and reports to support  
Council decisions throughout the year.  
Specific issues the GMT will address  
include: (1) discuss proposed revisions  
to the stock assessment process and  
appoint representatives to track the  
various assessments; (2) prepare a work  
plan for 1998 GMT activities; (3)  
prepare and review sections of the draft  
groundfish fishery management plan  
amendment; (4) review methodology for  
developing inseason catch projections;  
(5) prepare recommendations related to

groundfish research and data needs; (6)  
evaluate data and analysis requirements  
related to lingcod and rockfish  
allocation and management, and begin  
preparation of the analysis; (7) discuss  
issues related to a groundfish vessel/  
permit buy-back program; (8) evaluate  
Pacific grenadier and rockfish landings  
trends; and (9) prepare a groundfish  
economic data plan. The GMT plans to  
address topics in the order listed but  
will consider developing daily  
schedules as the meeting progresses.  
Due to the large number of agenda  
items, the GMT economic subgroup may  
meet separately and concurrently on  
Wednesday; it is not practical to  
establish daily agendas or schedules in  
advance of the meeting.

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

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible  
to people with disabilities. Requests for  
sign language interpretation or other  
auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr.  
Eric Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5  
days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 20, 1998.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-1831 Filed 1-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011698A]

#### Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 881-1443)

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that  
the Alaska SeaLife Center, P.O. Box  
1239, Seward, AK 99664, has applied in  
due form for a permit to take Steller sea  
lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) and harbor  
seals (*Phoca vitulina*) for purposes of  
scientific research.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before February 26, 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); and

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

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 13705, 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.

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.*), 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).

For the purposes of scientific research, the applicant seeks authorization to import from Canada, three juvenile Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) currently housed at the Vancouver Aquarium, and two juvenile harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) presently residing at University of British Columbia. Over a five-year period the applicant requests to conduct studies on the nutritional physiology, metabolic development, and clinical health of Steller sea lions and harbor seals under captive conditions. Incidental to this scientific research, the public will be able to view the animals as part of an education program.

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: January 21, 1998.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-1932 Filed 1-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012098A]

#### Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permits (559-1442 and P524B)

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of applications.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that applications have been received from the following individuals to take marine mammals for purposes of scientific research:

(559-1442) Mr. Salvatore Cerchio, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, 1109 Geddes Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079, has applied in due form for a permit to import humpback whale samples from Mexico; and

(P524B) Dr. Shannon Atkinson, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Univ. of HI, 1000 Pope Road MSB #213, Honolulu, HI 96822, has applied in due form for an amendment to Permit No. 969.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before February 26, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The applications 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);

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (508/281-9250); and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications

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 a 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.

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.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (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).

Mr. Salvatore Cerchio requests a permit to import 1000 humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) biopsy tissue samples from Mexico. Samples have already been collected or will be collected under permits issued by the Mexican Government. The goals of the project are to assess paternity and test whether there is a large variance in reproductive success among males, typical of polygynous systems, or if paternities are distributed randomly.

Dr. Shannon Atkinson requests an amendment to Permit No. 969 to import the reproductive tract tissues, blood, plasma and serum of Mediterranean monk seals (*Monachus monachus*) taken from the subpopulation that inhabits the coast of Mauritania in North Africa and was involved in the 1997 die-off. Samples will be imported from Spain, where they are currently in storage. The applicant also requests authority to collect and/or import the same samples from all species of pinnipeds (except walrus) involved in beachings, strandings, die-offs, and taken during normal veterinary procedures on rehabilitated animals. The objective is to evaluate reproductive