

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Walker, Fishery Management Analyst; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The GAP, the GMT, and the Groundfish Subcommittee of the SSC will meet jointly Monday, March 2, 1998, at 1 p.m. through Wednesday, March 4, at 10 a.m. The GMT will continue meeting Wednesday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Salmon Subcommittee and the Economic Subcommittee of the SSC will meet Tuesday, March 3, at 8 a.m. through Wednesday, March 4, at 10 a.m., and the full SSC will meet Wednesday, March 4, at 10 a.m. through Thursday, March 5, at 5 p.m.

The purpose of the joint GAP, GMT, and Groundfish Subcommittee of the SSC's meeting is to discuss groundfish management and research issues, including but not limited to draft plan amendments to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (including new definitions, essential fish habitat designation, overfishing and maximum sustainable yield control rules, and bycatch provisions), the proposed stock assessment review process, capacity reduction, and fixed gear sablefish management. These groups will address priorities for groundfish research on Wednesday, March 4, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Wednesday, March 4, the GMT will hold a work session to revise the draft amendment documents and materials related to the joint meeting.

The Salmon Subcommittee of the SSC will review the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model, Amendment 13 to the Salmon Plan, new Oregon hooking mortality figures, draft plan amendments to the Salmon Plan, possible revisions to the harvest modeling for Sacramento fall chinook, and other items scheduled on the agenda for the full SSC meeting.

The Economic Subcommittee of the SSC will discuss the economic data plan, the groundfish capacity reduction plan, and other items scheduled on the agenda of the full SSC meeting.

The full SSC will discuss the review of 1997 salmon fisheries and summary of 1998 stock abundance estimates, salmon estimation procedures and methodologies, draft plan amendments to the draft coastal pelagic species management plan, the Oregon coastal natural coho rebuilding analysis and progress report, groundfish final provisions for 1998 primary fixed gear sablefish season, groundfish capacity reduction program, and the groundfish

stock assessment review process for 1998.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues will not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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 Mr. Eric Greene at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 9, 1998.

Gary. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98-3756 Filed 2-12-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020698B]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Brendan P. Kelly, Ph.D., Juneau Center, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801 (Co-investigators: Dr Douglas Wartzok and Lori Quakenbush) (File No. 350-1434), has been issued a permit to take ringed seals (*Phoca hispida*) for the purposes of scientific research.

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

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7721).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 17, 1997, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (62

FR 66054) that a request for a scientific research permit to take (i.e., harass) ringed seals had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Dated: February 6, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush

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

[FR Doc. 98-3622 Filed 2-12-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020698A]

Marine Mammals

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 submitted in due form for a permit or the amend an existing permit to take marine mammals for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before March 16, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices: Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

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

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (206/526-6150).

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 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on these particular requests 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 e-mail or by other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permits are 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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Applicants

Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, WA 98115 (File No. 782-1446) requests a permit to conduct aerial, ground and boat surveys annually for stock assessment of harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*), and northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*). California sea lions and harbor seals will be: captured, tagged and branded for long term identification of individuals for information on reproductive success, survival and longevity; blood and biopsy sampled for contaminant analysis; tissue sampled for genetic analysis; and instrumented with VHF radio transmitters and/or time-depth recorders or satellite tags to document movements activity and foraging patterns. Elephant seals will be captured, tagged, marked and released. Animals will be incidentally harassed during these activities and accidental mortalities are requested for each species to be captured. Activities will occur in Washington, Oregon and Alaska.

University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775-6960 (File No. 704-1444) requests a permit to obtain and archive specimens from all species of Cetacea and Pinnipedia (except walrus) for scientific research purposes. Samples will be obtained from marine mammals taken by Alaska Native subsistence hunters, and scientists involved in marine mammal research under other permit. Samples will also be imported and exported.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 3-2000, Juneau, AK 99802 (Principal Investigators: Lloyd Lowry, Kathryn Frost, Jonathan Lewis, and Kenneth Pitcher), (File No. P66K) requests an amendment to Permit No. 1000. The original permit authorizes capture, tagging and sampling of harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and spotted seals (*P. largha*) in Alaska. The Permittee wants to amend the permit by increasing the number of animals that may be injected with deuterium oxide, and the number of animals may be incidentally harassed during the conduct of the authorized activities and increased scat collection activities.

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.

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.

Dated: February 6, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-3623 Filed 2-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters; Notice of Open Meeting

February 13, 1998.

ACTION: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters, created pursuant to Executive Order 13038.

SUMMARY: The President established the Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters (PIAC) to advise the Vice President on the public interest obligations of digital broadcasters. The Committee will study and recommend which public interest obligations should accompany broadcasters' receipt of digital television licenses. The President designated the National Telecommunications and Information

Administration as secretariat for the Committee.

AUTHORITY: Executive Order 13038, signed by President Clinton on March 11, 1997.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 1998 from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting is scheduled to take place at the Annenberg School of Communications of the University of Southern California at 3502 Watt Way, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0281. This location is subject to change. If the location changes, another **Federal Register** notice will be issued. Updates about the location of the meeting will also be available on the Advisory Committee's homepage at www.ntia.doc.gov/pubintadvcom/pubint.htm or you may call Karen Edwards at 202-482-8056.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Edwards, Designated Federal Officer and Telecommunications Policy Specialist, at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration; U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4720; 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.; Washington, DC 20230. Telephone: 202-482-8056; Fax: 202-482-8058; E-mail: piac@ntia.doc.gov.

Media Inquiries

Please contact Paige Darden at the Office of Public Affairs, at 202-482-7002.

Agenda

Monday, March 2

- Opening remarks
- Briefings by producers on programming and access in the digital age
- Briefings on and discussion of free air time for political candidates
- Committee deliberations
- Public comment
- Committee business
- Closing remarks

This agenda is subject to change. For an updated, more detailed agenda, please check the Advisory Committee homepage at www.ntia.doc.gov/pubintadvcom/pubint.htm.

Public Participation

The meeting will be open to the public, with limited seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Any member of the public requiring special services, such as sign language interpretation or other ancillary aids, should contact Karen Edwards at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting at 202-482-8056 or at piac@ntia.doc.gov.