DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
[I.D. 031198B]

Incidental Take of Marine Mammals; Taking of Ringed Seals Incidental to On-Ice Seismic Activities

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of letters of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended and with implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that letters of authorization to take ringed and bearded seals incidental to on-ice seismic operations in the Beaufort Sea off Alaska were issued on March 16, 1998, to BP Exploration, Western Geophysical, and Northern Geophysical of America, all of Anchorage, AK.

DATES: These letters of authorization are effective from March 16, 1998, through May 31, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The applications and letters are available for review in the following offices: Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and Western Alaska Field Office, NMFS, 701 C Street, all of Anchorage, AK.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, NMFS, (301) 776-3006 or Brad Smith, Western Alaska Field Office, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and Western Alaska Field Office, NMFS, 701 C Street, all of Anchorage, AK.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
[I.D. 0301698A]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

DATES: The Council, and its advisory entities will meet during the week of April 5-10, 1998. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, Columbia River, 1401 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217; telephone: (503) 283-2111.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lawrence D. Six, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council meeting will begin on Monday, April 6, 1998, through Thursday, April 9, 1998. The meetings were announced in the Federal Register on March 16, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The initial notice published on March 16, 1998 (63 FR 12784) The purpose of these meetings was for the SAPs to develop alternatives for the overfishing criteria as required by the Sustainable Fisheries Act. These alternative and recommendations would be provided to the Council. The meetings will be rescheduled at a future date after NMFS has published the guidelines for National Standard 1 which will define criteria for setting the overfishing thresholds.


Bruce C. Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98-7459 Filed 3-20-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F