

measures mentioned in this document. No rookeries, mating grounds, areas of concentrated feeding, or other areas of special significance for marine mammals occur within or near the planned area of operations during the season of operations.

Because bowhead whales are east of the seismic area in the Canadian Beaufort Sea until late August/early September, seismic activities are not expected to impact subsistence hunting of bowhead whales prior to that date. After August 31, 1998, aerial survey flights for bowhead whale assessments will be initiated. Appropriate mitigation measures to avoid an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of bowhead whales for subsistence needs will be the subject of consultation between Western Geophysical and subsistence users.

Also, while open-water seismic exploration in the U.S. Beaufort Sea has some potential to influence seal hunting activities by residents of Nuiqsut, because (1) the peak sealing season is during the winter months, (2) the main summer sealing is off the Colville Delta, and (3) the zone of influence by seismic sources on belukha and seals is fairly small, NMFS believes that Western Geophysical's seismic survey will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses.

Proposed Authorization

NMFS proposes to issue an incidental harassment authorization for the 1998 Beaufort Sea open water season for a seismic survey provided the above mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated. NMFS has preliminarily determined that the proposed seismic activity would result in the harassment of only small numbers of bowhead whales, gray whales, and possibly belukha whales, bearded seals, and largha seals; would have a negligible impact on these marine mammal stocks; and would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of marine mammal stocks for subsistence uses.

Information Solicited

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments, and information, concerning this request (see ADDRESSES).

Dated: May 14, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 98-13425 Filed 5-19-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051398E]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Comprehensive Management Committee; Committee Chairmen; Information and Education Committee; Habitat Committee; Executive Committee; and Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Committee will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 1998, to Thursday, June 4, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Bicentennial Park, New Bern, NC; telephone: 919-638-3585.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: 302-674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher Moore, Ph.D., Acting Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 16.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Tuesday, June 2, the Comprehensive Management Committee will meet from 8:00-10:00 a.m. The Committee Chairmen will meet from 10:00-11:00 a.m. The Information and Education Committee will meet from 11:00 a.m. until noon. The Habitat Committee, together with the Dogfish Committee, Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee, Squid, Mackerel and Butterfish Committee, Habitat Advisors, and Scientific and Statistical Committee, will meet from 1:00-5:00 p.m. On Wednesday, June 3, the Executive Committee will meet from 7:00-9:00 a.m. Council will meet from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Committee will meet as a Council Committee of the Whole from 11:00 until noon. Council will meet from 1:00-2:00 p.m. to review the Whiting Fishery Management Plan. Council will meet from 2:00-5:00 p.m., together with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Board,

to review Amendment 1 to the Bluefish Fishery Management Plan. On Thursday, June 4, Council will meet from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Agenda items for this meeting are: Distribution and abundance and EFH identification and recommendations on dogfish, surfclams, ocean quahogs, and squid, mackerel, butterfish; Review and adoption of NMFS recommendations on bluefish EFH; Review and hearing adoption of NMFS consistency amendment for consistency in Northeast vessel permits (replacement and upgrade); Adoption of mackerel limited entry provisions for public hearing document; Review and comment on whiting, winter flounder, herring and scallop management measures; Review and adoption of Amendment 1 to the Bluefish FMP for public hearing; Review and adoption of Dogfish FMP for public hearing; Review and adoption of Monkfish FMP; Review comprehensive management matrix; Review Council newsletter, view Council website; hear committee reports and other fishery management matters.

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 may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Council (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 14, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98-13370 Filed 5-19-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[051398D]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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