

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577; telephone: (787) 766-5926; fax: (787) 766-6239.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold its 94th regular public meeting to discuss the Draft Amendment Number 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands for Establishing a Marine Conservation District. The Council will be taking final action on the establishing of a proposed "no-take" marine conservation district in the exclusive economic zone, U.S.V.I.

The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 11, 1998, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., to discuss administrative matters regarding Council operation.

The Council will convene on Wednesday, August 12, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Thursday August February 13, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. till noon, approximately.

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral and written statements regarding agenda issues.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council 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 this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon at the Council (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** for address) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: July 20, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19990 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 071498A]

Incidental Taking of Marine Mammals; Acoustic Harassment

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

ACTION: Notice of workshop on acoustic criteria.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that it will convene a panel of independent experts in marine acoustics to discuss various technical aspects of the problem of marine mammals and anthropogenic noise. While the proceedings are open to the general public for observation, the public's ability to interact with the expert panel will be limited to specified times during the proceedings.

DATES: The workshop will be held September 9 through September 11, 1998, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The Workshop will be held at the Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, NOAA Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roger Gentry or Kenneth R. Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, telephone (301) 713-2055.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Anthropogenic sounds in the marine environment are increasing over the span of decades, with possible adverse impacts on the marine biota, in particular marine mammals. These sounds come from shipping, military (and civilian) explosives, seismic profiling (both oil and gas exploration and for seismic/geological hazards), government, commercial, and private sonars, dredging, drilling and pile driving, military activities, use of acoustic deterrence, and some scientific research. Some sounds may be loud enough to cause physical injury to marine mammals. The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) defines "take" to include "harass." Harassment includes a disturbance or a disruption of behavioral patterns, including migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (16 U.S.C. 1362(18)). While it is clear that certain takings (e.g., those that cause serious injury or mortality or result in large scale displacements of a marine mammal population) require an authorization under the MMPA (unless exempted), it is less clear what level of anthropogenic sounds might cause

behavioral modification or affect hearing sufficient to require authorizations under the MMPA and the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, at this time scientific data demonstrating that certain sounds result in the harassment of marine mammals are lacking, and it is not known to what extent NMFS should apply data from surrogate species to marine mammals.

The workshop will consist of experts in the fields of animal bioacoustics, underwater sound, and animal behavior. The workshop will consider whether different criteria are needed for explosions, pulsed sound, intermittent sound, and continuous sound, the preferred units in which to report these levels, and other approaches as alternatives to proximity for estimating the effects of sound on marine mammals.

Dated: July 21, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98-19992 Filed 7-24-98; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 071598G]

South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold joint meetings of its Habitat Committee and Coral Advisory Panel and its Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel.

DATES: The meetings will be held from August 11-13, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Town & Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC; telephone: (843) 571-1000.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov