

Dated: March 23, 1999.

**Ted I. Lillestolen,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator, Ocean Service and Coastal Zone Management.*

Dated: March 17, 1999.

**Norine E. Noonan,**

*Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development, Environmental Protection Agency.*

Dated: March 16, 1999.

**G. Michael Purdy,**

*Director, Division of Ocean Sciences, National Science Foundation.*

Dated: March 29, 1999.

**Steven E. Ramberg,**

*Department Head, Ocean, Space and Atmosphere Science and Technology Department, Office of Naval Research.*

Dated: March 26, 1999.

**Jack A Kaye,**

*Director, Research Division, Office of Earth Science, NASA Headquarters.*

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 033199E]

**North 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:** A scientific review panel of six scientists will meet in Seattle, WA.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on April 26-28, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Building 9, Auditorium, Seattle, WA 98115.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Clarence Pautzke, telephone: 907-271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In December 1998, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) approved emergency measures aimed at further protection for the endangered Steller sea lion. These measures were based on a biological opinion provided by NMFS which concluded that, left unchanged, the pollock fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea are likely

to jeopardize the continued existence of Steller sea lions, and are likely to destroy or adversely modify designated Steller sea lion critical habitat. These emergency measures will need to be replaced with more permanent regulations for the years 2000 and beyond. The Council requested in December that NMFS, in consultation with the Council, the Marine Mammal Commission, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, coordinate an independent review of the Biological Opinion and related data.

The panel is being asked to look at the scientific basis for the conclusions of the Biological Opinion and determine whether the principles for establishing reasonable and prudent alternatives are consistent with and supported by the available science.

Although the review session will be open to public attendees, no public comment period is scheduled. A more detailed agenda with estimated times should be available on the on the NPFMC web page (<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc>) by April 9, 1999.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this panel 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 listed in this agenda.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen, 907-271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 1, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 040199A]

**Endangered Species; Permits**

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application for a research permit (1214), and issuance of modification 1 to research permit 1174.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement:

NMFS has received a permit application from: Ms. Jane Anne Provancha, of Dynamac Corporation (1214), and NMFS has issued modification 1 to scientific research Permit 1174 to Mr. Harold Brundage III, of Environmental Research and Consulting, Inc, to take listed species.

**DATES:** Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request (1214) must be received on or before May 7, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The documents pertaining to this application and permit are available for review by appointment by contacting:

Chief, Endangered Species Division; Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

For Application 1214, Barb Schroeder, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, (301-713-1401).

For Permit 1174, Terri Jordan, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, (301-713-1401).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Authority**

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the ESA, is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) Are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions