

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

[I.D. 092999A]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Herring Oversight Committee in October 1999. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate. This will be a joint meeting with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Atlantic Herring Section.

DATES: The meeting will held on Thursday, October 21, 1999, at 10:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Ferncroft Hotel, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone (978)777-2500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (781) 231-0422. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, Massachusetts 01906-1036; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will discuss various options for developing a controlled access program for the Atlantic herring fishery. The committee also may discuss other herring management issues, including spawning area closures, gear competition and interactions in the Gulf of Maine, management area Total Allowable Catches (TACs), and changing the start date of the fishing year. There will be a brief closed session to discuss appointments to the Herring Advisory Panel.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: September 29, 1999.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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

[I.D. 092899H]

Marine Mammals; File No. 772#69

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 8604 La Jolla Shores Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 1024.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before November 4, 1999.

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

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

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request 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 other electronic media.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 1024, issued on December 30, 1997 (62 FR 1875) is requested 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).

Permit No. 1024 authorizes the permit holder to take Antarctic fur seals and other Antarctic pinnipeds by capture, handle, tag and attach satellite transmitters. The permit holder requests an increase take of 200 adult female Antarctic fur seals (100 each year for two years) for tooth extraction. Animals will be anesthetized using isoflurane delivered with oxygen to the mask via a portable vaporizer. Also, to minimize stress the animals, 2-3mg (dependent on body size) of benzo9diazepines is administered intravenously during induction of isoflurane anesthesia. The area of the tooth extraction will be cleansed with antiseptic solution during and after extraction.

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: September 28, 1999.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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