

Dated: September 30, 1999.

Louisa Koch,

Deputy Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-25967 Filed 10-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KB-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092899D]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Habitat Committee in October, 1999. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will held on Tuesday, October 19, 1999, at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, One Newbury St., Route 1, Peabody, MA; telephone: (978) 535-4600.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will continue its discussion of objectives, criteria, and a process for designating a habitat research area. They also will discuss development of a structured process for the identification and designation of habitat areas of particular concern and review any available information related to potential scallop fishing access in Closed Area I and the Nantucket Lightship Area. There will be a brief closed session during the meeting to select industry advisors.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 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 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 30, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 99-26092 Filed 10-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090199A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 738-1454-02

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Permit No. 738-1454 issued to Ms. Carole Conway, Genomic Variation Laboratory, Department of Animal Science, Meyer Hall, University of California, Davis, CA 95616-3322, was amended to allow import and export of additional blue whale samples.

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

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130 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).

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing endangered and threatened marine species (50 CFR 222-226).

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that

such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: September 29, 1999.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 99-26091 Filed 10-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051299C]

Marine Mammals; Gray Whale Research and Monitoring

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

ACTION: Notice of report availability.

SUMMARY: NMFS conducted a review of the status of the Eastern North Pacific stock of gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), sometimes referred to as the "California" stock, at a workshop held by the National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML) in Seattle, Washington, on March 16-17, 1999. Based on the continued growth of this population (rising at 2.5 percent annually; currently at an estimated 26,600 individuals), and the lack of evidence of any imminent threats to the stock, workshop participants agreed to continue this stock's classification as non-threatened. They also concluded that abundance monitoring should continue at some level and that, ideally, research should continue on human impacts to critical habitats. This stock's annual migrations along the highly populated coastline of the western United States and their concentration in limited winter and summer areas may make them particularly vulnerable to impacts from commercial or industrial development or local catastrophic events. The Western North Pacific ("Korean") gray whale stock has not recovered and should continue to be listed as endangered.

This workshop and status review conclude the 5-year assessment of the Eastern North Pacific gray whale stock following its June 16, 1994, removal from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (List). Since completion of the status review,