

during the comment period. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 13, 2000.

Craig Johnson,

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041400B]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings of the Standing and Special Red Drum Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Red Drum Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: The Standing and Special Red Drum SSC will meet on Wednesday, May 3, 2000 beginning at 1 p.m. and will conclude by 12 noon on Thursday, May 4, 2000; the Red Drum AP will meet on Friday, May 5, 2000 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The SSC meeting will be held at the Tampa Airport Hilton Hotel, 2225 Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone 813-877-6688. The AP meeting will be held at the New Orleans Airport Hilton, 901 Airline Drive, Kenner, LA 70062; telephone: 504-469-5000.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Hood, Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SEC will convene to review the 1999/2000 red drum stock assessment. A Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel (SAP) member will present the assessment to the SSC related to setting an allowable biological catch (ABC) range in the Gulf of Mexico. The SSC may also review estimates of stock size (biomass at maximum sustainable yield [Bmsy]), minimum stock size thresholds (MSST), escapement rates of juveniles to offshore

waters, and adult red drum bycatch in shrimp trawls. Based on this review, the SSC may recommend to the Council levels for total allowable catch (TAC), bag limits, size limits, commercial quotas, and other measures for the red drum fishery.

The AP will meet to review the 1999/2000 red drum stock assessment. A Red Drum SAP member will also present the assessment to the AP. The AP will also provide recommendations to the Council.

Based on recommendations from the above meetings, the Council, at its May meeting in New Orleans, LA will decide if changes are needed to current red drum management measures. Currently, it is illegal to harvest or possess red drum in Federal waters.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by contacting the Gulf Council (see **ADDRESSES**).

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Standing and Special Red Drum SSC and the Red Drum AP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC and the Red Drum AP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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 action to address the emergency. Special Accommodations.

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by April 27, 2000.

Dated: April 7, 2000.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 00-9846 Filed 4-18-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041300B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of an application for a scientific research permit (1249); receipt of applications to modify permits (1115, 1156, 1193); and issuance of modifications to an existing permit (1048).

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 Mr. E.P. Taft, of Alden Research Laboratory (ALR) (1249); NMFS has received applications for permit modifications from: Chelan County Public Utility District No. 1 at Wenatchee, WA (CCPUD)(1115), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at Corvallis, OR (EPA)(1156), and the Fish Passage Center at Portland, OR (FPC)(1193); and NMFS has issued modifications to a scientific research permit to the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) (1048).

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. eastern daylight time on May 19, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the new application or any of the new modification requests should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the application or modification request. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the internet. The applications and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment:

For permits 1115, 1156, 1193: Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-2737 (ph: 503-230-5400, fax: 503-230-5435).

For permit 1048: Protected Species Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528 (ph: 707-575-6066, fax: 707-578-3435).

For permit 1249: Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (ph: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376).

Documents may also be reviewed by appointment in the Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For permit 1249: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (ph: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376, e-mail: Terri.Jordan@noaa.gov).