

West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (508) 281-9250; fax (508) 281-9371.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 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 the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-227).

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center seeks permission to conduct research on seven species of baleen whales, twenty species of odontocetes and four species of pinnipeds. The study area would include all waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, including international waters, from the equator to latitude 80 degrees N except for territorial waters of other nations. The principal purpose of the research, for all species, relates to stock assessment (notably, but not limited to, estimation of abundance and determination of population structure); this is an activity for which NMFS has primary responsibility under the MMPA. Aerial surveys for right whales will be flown at a minimum altitude of 500 feet for the purpose of stock assessment as well to alert mariners of their presence. Types of take include potential harassment through approach (shipboard /aerial), biopsy sampling, acoustic sampling, tagging, and (for pinnipeds) tag/release. Permission is also sought to import and export material (including soft and hard tissue, blood, extracted DNA, and whole dead animals or parts thereof) to and from any country.

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.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should

set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular 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 by other electronic media.

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: October 23, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101700G]

Caribbean 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 Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on November 14-15, 2000. The Council will convene on Tuesday, November 14, 2000, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. through Wednesday, November 15, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, approximately.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Divi Carina Bay Resort and Casino, 25 Estate Turnerhole, Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577, telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will hold its 102nd regular public meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

Consideration of 101st Council

Meeting Summary Minutes

Executive Director's Report

Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Final Action

- Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)/Advisory Panel (AP) Minutes
- Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Report
- Queen Conch FMP Final Action*
- Continuation of Discussion of Management Measures
- Honduras-Jamaica Meeting Report
- Essential Fish Habitat*
- Habitat AP Meeting Minutes
- Other Business*
- AP Membership

Next Council Meeting

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 or written statements regarding agenda issues.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, 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 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

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918-2577, telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 20, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Pine Hills Casino and Resort, Located in Harrison County, Mississippi

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.