

- Longline and buoy gear endorsement (Section 6.1.1):

6.1.1.1 Establish a longline/buoy gear endorsement— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

6.1.1.2 Transferability of endorsement— Fully transferable

6.1.1.3 Appeals board— Appeals to be handled by NMFS

- Longline and buoy gear boundary line (Section 6.1.2)— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

• Longline and buoy gear phase-out (Section 6.1.3)— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

- Use of powerheads when spearfishing (Section 6.2): Require a permit for the use of powerheads when reef fish fishing (both commercially and recreationally), and eliminate the regulatory exemption that allows the use of powerheads in the stressed area for harvest of sand perch, dwarf sand perch, and hogfish.

• Use of reef fish for bait (Section 7.0): Prohibit the use of all species in the reef fish management unit or parts thereof, except sand perch and dwarf sand perch, with any gear for bait. (No preferred alternative on whether to apply this provision to commercial fishing, recreational fishing, or both.) Vessel monitoring system (Section 8.0): Require fishing vessels engaged in the bottom (reef fish) longline fishery to be equipped with an electronic vessel monitoring system (VMS), with the cost of the vessel equipment, installation, maintenance, and month-to-month communications to be paid or arranged by the owners as appropriate. NMFS will maintain and will publish in the **Federal Register** a list of type-approved units and communications protocols.

• Dormant reef fish permits (Section 9.0)— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

• Red grouper rebuilding plan (Section 10.0):

• 10.1 Red Grouper Sustainable Fishing Parameters: Set red grouper maximum sustainable yield (MSY), fishing mortality rate at MSY (FMSY), and spawning stock biomass proxy at MSY (SSMSY) at the range of values estimated by the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel, MSY = 6.705 to 7.012 million pounds; FMSY = 0.223 to 0.270; SSMSY = 350.7 to 433.2 million grams female gonad weight.

10.2 Red Grouper Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST): Red grouper minimum stock size threshold (MSST) shall be 80% of SSMSY (280.6 to 346.6 million grams female gonad weight).

10.3 Red Grouper Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold (MFMT): Red grouper maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT) shall be FMSY (0.223 to 0.270), or the F consistent with

recovery to the MSY level in no more than 10 years.

10.4 Red Grouper Optimum Yield (OY): Red grouper optimum yield (OY) shall be 90% of MSY (6.035 to 6.311 million pounds).

10.5 Red Grouper Rebuilding Strategy: Adopt a 10-year red grouper rebuilding plan based on a constant catch strategy. The annual ABC during the rebuilding period is initially set at 4.3-5.2 million pounds. (This is a reduction of 21%–34% from the 1996–99 average landings of 6.6 million pounds.) This ABC range may be modified following a future stock assessment by a regulatory amendment or plan amendment.

10.6 Commercial Shallow-Water Grouper Closed Seasons— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

10.7 Recreational Closed Seasons— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

10.8 Commercial Grouper Trip Limits— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

10.9 Recreational Grouper Bag Limits— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

10.10 Closed Areas— [No Preferred Alternative Selected]

Tilefish and Deep-Water Grouper (Section 11.0): Combine tilefish and deep-water grouper into a new deep-water reef fish aggregate, and set the new deep-water reef fish quota at 1.47 million pounds (which is the average annual harvest of tilefish and deep-water grouper from 1996–99).

- Changes to the reef fish management unit (Section 12.0): Add the following species to the management unit: a. Marbled grouper (*Epinephelus inermis*) - to the shallow-water aggregate, b. Sand tilefish (*Malacanthus plumieri*)
- Modifications to the Framework Procedure for Setting Total Allowable Catch (TAC) (Section 13.0): The primary modification is to allow a species TAC and commercial-to-recreational allocation to be set for an individual species within an aggregate (such as the shallow-water grouper aggregate) that differs from the aggregate allocation, provided the aggregate allocation remains as specified. A second modification allows NMFS stock assessments to report the status of stocks in terms of biomass or biomass proxy instead of spawning potential ratio (SPR).

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the SSC/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 SSC/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.

Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is 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 June 5, 2001.

Dated: May 23, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-13437 Filed 5-25-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052201B]

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 Joint Groundfish Oversight Committee, Ad Hoc Capacity Committee and Groundfish Advisory Panel in June 2001. Recommendations from these committees will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will held on Tuesday, June 12, 2001, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Providence Biltmore, Kennedy Plaza, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 421-0700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: There is a concern that fishing effort may increase in the groundfish fishery, threatening recent improvements in stock condition. The Groundfish Oversight Committee, Groundfish Advisory Panel, and Ad Hoc Capacity Committee will meet to review issues concerning latent effort and

unused days-at-sea (DAS). They will discuss four alternatives identified by the Capacity Committee in 2000, as well as an additional alternative developed by the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT). The joint Committees will review these alternatives, identify possible revisions, and develop recommendations on which, if any, should be included as part of Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. The Committees may also develop additional options for addressing latent effort, and may develop a schedule for addressing this issue and adopting any suggested management measures.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. 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: May 23, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-13436 Filed 5-25-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041701C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 931-1597-00

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Sam H. Ridgway, RDTE Div 3503, 49620 Beluga Rd, San Diego, California 92152-6266, has been issued a permit to take 48 species of stranded cetaceans for scientific research.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Lewandowski or Trevor Spradlin, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 29, 2000, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 52410) that a request for a scientific research permit to take 48 species of stranded cetaceans had been submitted by the above-named individual.

The purpose of the research, as stated in the application, is to conduct audiometric and sonocular testing on 48 species of stranded cetaceans to determine their acoustic sensitivities and vestibular responses for use in assessing the potential impacts of manmade noise. Medical treatment may also be provided, at the request of the NMFS stranding network, to stranded or entrapped cetaceans. Biological samples may also be collected, upon authorization by the NMFS Regional Stranding Coordinator. Samples collected abroad may also be imported into the U.S. Research will occur in waters under the jurisdiction of the U.S. and the high seas over a 5-year period.

The requested permit 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 the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 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.

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations:

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426;

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249;

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018;

Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, NMFS, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106,

Honolulu, HI 96822-2396; phone (808)943-1221; fax (808)943-1240;

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (508)281-9250; fax (508)281-9371;

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5300.

Dated: May 22, 2001.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 01-13435 Filed 5-25-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Arms Control and Nonproliferation; Proposed Subsequent Arrangement

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Subsequent arrangement.

SUMMARY: This notice is issued under the authority of section 131 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2160). The Department is providing notice of a proposed "subsequent arrangement" under the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Swiss Federal Council Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

This subsequent arrangement concerns the addition of Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Romania, South Africa and Ukraine to the list of countries in Annex I to the Agreed Minute to the Agreement for Cooperation. As stated in paragraph B of the Agreed Minute, countries on the list are eligible to receive retransfers of source material, uranium other than high enriched uranium, moderator material and equipment transferred under Article 7 of the Agreement. The United States has brought into force new Agreements for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, under the authority of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2160), with Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Romania, South Africa and Ukraine. These seven countries have also made effective non-proliferation commitments. Accordingly, they are eligible third countries to which retransfers may be made.

In accordance with section 131 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, we have determined that this subsequent arrangement will not be