

been met and the authorization can be issued.

Appropriate mitigation measures to avoid an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of bowhead whales for subsistence needs have been the subject of a CAA between WesternGeco, the AEWC, and Nuiqsut and Kaktovik whalers. This agreement consists of three main components: (1) Communications, (2) conflict avoidance, and (3) dispute resolution, and has been concluded for the 2001 open-water seismic season.

WesternGeco estimates that 2,630 bowheads could potentially be exposed to its OBC seismic survey activities and, more probably, a total of less than 1,300 bowheads may be harassed based on the number of bowheads that might potentially be within 20 km of the airgun arrays. NMFS concurs and is therefore authorizing a take for bowhead whales by Level B harassment of 1,965 animals (based on the average of 2,630 and 1,300 animals). NMFS believes that no bowheads will be killed or seriously injured by WesternGeco's activity and accordingly has not authorized takings for injury or mortality.

Open-water seismic exploration in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea does have some potential to influence seal hunting activities by residents of Nuiqsut. However, because the main summer sealing by the village of Nuiqsut is conducted off the Colville Delta, west of the proposed survey area, and the zone of influence by seismic sources on seals is expected to be fairly small (less than a few hundred meters), NMFS believes that WesternGeco's OBC seismic survey will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of seals for subsistence uses.

Authorization

Accordingly, NMFS has issued an IHA to WesternGeco, LLC for the ocean bottom cable seismic survey operations described in this notice during the 2001 open water season in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea provided the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in this document and in the IHA are undertaken.

Dated: August 1, 2001.

Donald Knowles,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080601C]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Salmon Technical Team (STT) will hold a work session by telephone conference, which is open to the public.

DATES: The telephone conference will be held Monday, August 27, 2001, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Listening stations will be available at several locations. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Chuck Tracy, telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the work session is to finalize the Queets River coho stock assessment report, including developing recommendations to the Council.

Location of Listening Stations

1. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resource Building, Room 682, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501; Contact: Mr. Doug Milward; (360) 902-2739.

2. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Executive Director's Office, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384; Contact: Mr. Chuck Tracy; (503) 326-6352.

3. NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Auditorium, Room 188, 110 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; Contact: Mr. Michael Mohr; (831) 420-3922.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the STT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal STT action during this meeting. STT 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 STT'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 Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 8, 2001.

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. 080201D]

Marine Mammals; File No. 1007-1629

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Leszek Karczmarski, Ph.D., Marine Mammal Research Program, Texas A&M University, 4700 Avenue U, Building 303, Galveston, Texas 77551, has been issued a permit to take Hawaiian spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before September 12, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The permit 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; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 713-0376;

Protected Species, Pacific Islands Area Office, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Room 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808) 973-2935; fax (808) 973-2941; and

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 24, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 28733) that a