

O'Malley, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; William Outten, Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Mike Peele, North Carolina Beach Seine, Pound Net, and Gillnet Representative; Carl Poppell, Georgia Crab Pot Representative; Tim Ragen, Marine Mammal Commission; Andy Read, Duke University Marine Laboratory; John Reynolds III, Marine Mammal Commission; Jerry Schill, North Carolina commercial fisheries representative; Richard Seagraves, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Larry Simms, Maryland Crab Pot Representative; Ann Spellman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Lee Spence, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife; Mark Swingle, Virginia Marine Science Museum; Leonard Voss, Delaware Gillnet and Crab Pot Representative; Chris Walker, Virginia Gillnet Representative; Kathy Wang, NMFS Southeast Regional Office; Rob West, North Carolina Gillnet, Pound Net, and Crab Pot Representative; A.D. Willis, North Carolina Recreational Crab Pot and Gillnet Representative; David Woolman, South Carolina Crab Pot Representative; Nina Young, The Ocean Conservancy; Sharon Young, The Humane Society of the United States; Chris Zeman, American Oceans Campaign; Barb Zoodsma, Georgia Coastal Resources, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The BDTRT will be facilitated by Hans Neuhauser and Jim Feldt, Georgia Environmental Policy Institute.

Section 118 (f)(6)(A)(ii) of the MMPA requires NMFS to publish the full geographic range of the marine mammal stock for which a take reduction team is being convened and list all commercial fisheries that cause incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals from such stock.

Western North Atlantic coastal bottlenose dolphins range seasonally as far north as Long Island, NY and as far south as central Florida. Multiple stocks of Western North Atlantic coastal bottlenose dolphins exist, and include year-round residents, seasonal residents, and migratory groups. In addition to the coastal bottlenose dolphins, a distinct, offshore ecotype also exists. Research is underway to improve data about the stock structure of coastal bottlenose dolphins and to define the offshore range of coastal bottlenose dolphins.

Western North Atlantic coastal bottlenose dolphins are known to interact with the following Category II commercial fisheries: Mid-Atlantic coastal gillnet, North Carolina inshore gillnet, Southeast Atlantic gillnet, Southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet,

Atlantic blue crab trap/pot, Mid-Atlantic haul/beach seine, North Carolina long haul seine, North Carolina roe mullet stop net, and Virginia pound net. Additional commercial fisheries, classified as Category III fisheries, are known to rarely cause incidental mortality and serious injury to Western North Atlantic coastal bottlenose dolphins. These fisheries are identified in the 2001 List of Fisheries (66 FR 42780, August 15, 2001). Interactions between Western North Atlantic coastal bottlenose dolphins and recreational fisheries have also been documented.

NMFS fully intends to conduct the BDTRT process in a way that provides for national consistency yet accommodates the unique regional needs and characteristics of the team. The data and analysis used to support the BDTRT will go through an external peer-review process, be reviewed by NMFS' Scientific Review Groups, and be made available for public review and comment as a Stock Assessment Report. Take Reduction Teams are not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 App. U.S.C.). Meetings are open to the public.

Dated: August 27, 2001.

Ann D. Terbush,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 01-22071 Filed 8-30-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082401B]

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 Capacity Committee in September, 2001. 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, September 18, 2001, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Capacity Committee will discuss proposals for reducing latent effort and changing permit transfer restrictions in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery. The committee will consider Groundfish Advisory Panel comments on the proposals from their August 16, 2001 Advisory Panel meeting. The Council has directed the Committee to make recommendations on revising and combining these proposals for possible inclusion in Amendment 13 to the Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. The Committee will not make final decisions about the choice of alternatives, but will report its recommendations to the Council and the Council's Groundfish Oversight Committee.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group 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: August 24, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 01-22068 Filed 8-30-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082401C]

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) will hold an essential fish habitat (EFH) committee meeting to review NMFS draft summary of EFH scoping comments, to identify significant issues and preliminary alternatives, and to determine staffing needs.

DATES: The EFH committee will meet at 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18, 2001, and at 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The committee will meet in Sitka, AK, at the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), 1308 Sawmill Creek Road, in the conference room.

Questions should be addressed to NMFS, Habitat Conservation Division, ATTN: Cindy Hartmann, 709 West 9th, Suite 461, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cindy Hartmann, NMFS, (907) 586-7585, e-mail: Cindy.Hartmann@noaa.gov; or Cathy Coon, NPFMC, (907) 271-2809, e-mail: Cathy.Coon@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NPFMC's EFH committee was formally established by the NPFMC's acting executive director in May 2001. The committee was established in response to the need to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the EFH fishery management plan amendments. For further information about the SEIS, see the notice of intent to prepare an SEIS published in the Proposed Rules section of the **Federal Register** (66 FR 30396, June 6, 2001).

The function of the EFH Committee is to serve as a steering committee for the EFH EIS process. The Committee's overarching goal is to facilitate input by the industry, conservation community, Council, and general public to the EFH EIS process. More specifically, the Committee will assist in identifying: (1) The "significant issues" used to develop and evaluate proposed alternatives; (2) The alternatives for describing, identifying, and protecting EFH; (3) The means of determining possible fishery impacts on habitat; (4) and Interpreting existing information for development

and analysis of alternatives; (5) The alternatives for mitigating fishing gear impacts on habitat; (6) Alternative criteria and approaches that could be used to designate and manage HAPC areas; and (7) Identify and prioritize future research needs. Additionally, the committee will assist the agency with appointing and working with technical teams. This will be the third meeting of the EFH Committee. Prior meetings were held May 30 and August 13 and 14, 2001.

Agenda items for this meeting include:

1. Discussion of NMFS preliminary draft scoping report;
2. Committee recommendations to the NPFMC on significant issues;
3. Discussion of technical teams and their composition; and
4. EFH Committee tasks, timetable and next meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group 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

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cindy Hartmann, (907) 586-7235, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 24, 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. 082401E]

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/enhancement permit (1346).

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 under the Endangered Species Act (ESA): NMFS has received an application for a research/enhancement permit from Mr. Thomas McCormick, of Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute (CIMRI).

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 no later than 5 p.m. eastern standard time on October 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on any of the new applications or modification requests should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated here. 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:

Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: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 (phone:301-713-1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (phone: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376, e-mail: Terri.Jordan@noaa.gov)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Scientific research and/or enhancement permits are issued under Section 10 (a)(1)(A) of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS