

—Identification and promotion of business opportunities in both countries;

—Attracting U.S. businesses to opportunities in Egypt and serving as a catalyst for Egyptian private sector growth.

The U.S. section of the Council, chaired by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, consists of fifteen members, all drawn from the private sector. They represent the diversity of American business with emphasis on:

Agribusiness and food processing, tourism, banking and insurance, energy, pharmaceuticals, services (such as accounting, management, engineering/construction), information technology, electronics and other high technology industries, and manufacturing industries. Private sector members will serve in a representative capacity presenting the views and interests of their particular industry and as senior business representatives whose expertise on international business issues can be shared. Private sector members are not special government employees, and will receive no compensation for their participation in Council activities. Members participating in Council meetings and events will be responsible for their travel, lodging, and other personal expenses. Only appointed members may attend official Council meetings. Council members serve for three-year terms at the discretion of the Department of Commerce.

In order to be eligible for membership in the U.S. section, potential candidates should be:

—A U.S. citizen residing in the United States, or able to travel to the United States to attend official Council meetings;

—The President or CEO (or comparable level of responsibility) of a private sector company (or, in the case of very large private sector companies, the head of a sizeable operating unit), or head of a non-profit organization such as a trade or industry association that has a unique technical expertise and outstanding reputation; and

—Not a registered foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended.

In reviewing eligible candidates, the Department of Commerce will consider such selection factors as:

—Experience and interest in the Egyptian market;

—Industry or service sector represented;

—Export/investment experience;

—Contribution to diversity based on industry sector, company size, location, and demographics; and

—Readiness to initiate and be responsible for activities in which the Presidents' Council will be active.

Members will be selected who will best carry out the objectives of the Council as stated in the Terms of Reference establishing the U.S.-Egypt Presidents' Council.

To be considered for membership, please provide the following: Name or names and title(s) of the individual(s) requesting consideration; name and address of the company or organization sponsoring each individual; company's product, service or technical expertise; size of the company or organization; export trade, investment, or international program experience and major markets; and a brief statement of why the candidate(s) should be considered for membership on the Council.

Dated: November 13, 2001.

**Cherie A. Loustaunau,**

*Director, Office of the Middle East.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-DA-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111301C]

#### North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on December 2-10, 2001. See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 500 W. 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Council staff, Phone: 907-271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NPFMC's Individual Fishery Quota (IFQ) and Cost Recovery Committee will meet on Sunday, December 2, between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.. The NPFMC's Advisory Panel will begin at 8 a.m.,

Monday, December 3, and continue through Friday, December 7, 2001. The Scientific and Statistical Committee will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, December 3, and continue through Thursday, December 6, 2001.

The NPFMC will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, December 5, continuing through Monday, December 10, 2001. All meetings are open to the public except executive sessions which may be held during the week at which the Council may discuss international issues, personnel, and/or current litigation.

**Council:** The agenda for the NPFMC's plenary session will include the following issues. The NPFMC may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports:

(a) Executive Director's Report.

(b) State Fisheries Report by Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

(c) NMFS Management Report.

(d) Enforcement and Surveillance reports by NMFS and the U.S. Coast Guard.

2. Community Development Program (CDQ):

(a) Final action on regulatory amendment for changes to the halibut CDQ program for regulatory areas 4E/4D.

(b) Initial review of amendment package for CDQ policy changes.

3. Seabird Avoidance Measures: Final action on revisions to regulations for seabird avoidance measures.

4. Rationalization of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Fisheries: Review progress on analysis and provide direction as appropriate.

5. American Fisheries Act (AFA):

(a) Review and comment on AFA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and proposed rule.

(b) Review discussion paper on extension of the AFA.

(c) Review co-op agreements and preliminary annual co-op reports.

(d) Review industry response to request from Alaska Department of Fish and Game for ownership information necessary to finalize the Council's AFA report to Congress; consider approving submission of final report.

6. Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Program:

(a) Review report of IFQ Committee; staff direction as necessary.

(b) Initial review of analysis for Gulf of Alaska community purchase of quota shares.

7. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) EIS: Receive Committee report and results of recent workshop and discuss alternatives for designating EFH and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern.

8. Programmatic Groundfish

Supplemental EIS: Receive report from

NPFMC Ecosystem Committee, review public comments, and consider process for selecting a Preferred Alternative.

9. Groundfish Management:

(a) Final Review of Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) documents for BSAI and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish fisheries for 2002.

(b) Set Total Allowable Catch and bycatch levels for BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries for 2002.

(c) Receive report on Halibut Excluder Device research; provide comment or staff direction as appropriate.

(d) Review tasking and problem statement for differential gear impact analysis for Pacific cod.

(e) Discuss tasking an independent review of the Council's F40 harvest strategy.

(f) Review discussion paper on catch and bycatch disclosure (if material is available); provide staff direction as appropriate.

(g) Review discussion paper on bycatch implications of Steller sea lion measures for 2002 (if data available).

10. Staff Tasking:

(a) Review existing tasking and provide direction as necessary.

(b) Receive status report on agency initiative to collect socio-economic data.

*Scientific and Statistical Committee:*

The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

a. Seabird Avoidance Measures (Item #3 on the Council agenda)

b. BSAI Crab Rationalization (Item #4 on the Council agenda)

c. Halibut/Sablefish IFQ issues (Item #6 on the Council agenda)

d. Essential Fish Habitat (Item #7 on the Council agenda)

e. Groundfish SEIS (Item 18 on the Council agenda)

f. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska SAFE documents (Item 19(a) on the Council agenda)

g. Independent review of the Council's F40 harvest strategy (Item 19 (e) on the Council agenda)

*Advisory Panel:* The Advisory Panel will address the same agenda issues as the Council, with the exception of the Reports under Item 1 of the Council agenda.

*IFQ Implementation/Cost Recovery Committee:* The committee will address the following issues:

1. Review NMFS's estimated IFQ fee and budget costs for 2002.

2. Review enforcement issues (prior notice of landing; offload "window"; shipment report; and vessel clearance).

Other impromptu workgroup or committee meetings may be scheduled during the meeting week; such meetings will be announced in the various meetings and posted in the hotel.

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 these meetings. 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 NPFMC's intent to take final 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 Helen Allen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 14, 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. 110801A]

**Marine Mammals; File No. 481-1623-00**

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that LGL Limited, Environmental Research Associates, 22 Fisher Street, POB 280, King City, Ontario, Canada L7B 1A6 (Principal Investigator: Dr. John W. Lawson) has applied in due form for a permit to take ringed seals (*Phoca hispida*) and incidentally take bearded seals (*Erignathus barbatus*) and spotted seals (*Phoca largha*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before December 19, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** The application 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; and

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ruth Johnson or Amy Sloan (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.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant has requested a permit to take ringed seals and incidentally take bearded and spotted seals annually. Researchers will use trained dogs within the fast ice distant from and near to industrial activities during winter to locate seals. LGL proposes to:

(a) take 150 seals by harassment during on-ice searches for breathing holes and resting lairs, and during setup and recovery of the VHF receiver stations, 20 ringed seals will be captured and tagged with VHF transmitters and implant PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags;

(b) take up to 5 accidental mortalities, over a 5-year period;

(c) take an unlimited number of seals during four aerial survey transects, each survey requiring two days. Two days of surveys constitutes one of four complete survey coverages of the study area.

These surveys had been conducted under Letter of Confirmation No. 481-1626 issued under authority of the General Authorization for Scientific Research. That authorization will be incorporated into the scientific research permit, if issued;

(d) conduct acoustic characterization of on-ice anthropogenic sounds by employing calibrated hydrophones, microphones and geophones in holes drilled through the ice near an intended path of a vibroseis seismic survey convoy or some other noisy anthropogenic activities and make acoustic recordings as the operation moves past. To characterize received levels for ringed seals, seal lairs will be instrumented with these acoustic recording instruments to measure the characteristics of man-made sounds in a natural seal structure and to obtain concurrent acoustic and behavioral data from the same lair by deploying telemetry devices within the lair (i.e., recording thermistors);

(e) conduct genetic and contaminant studies of ringed seals using teeth and tissue samples acquired from Native hunters during subsistence harvests. Teeth and tissue samples for contaminant studies will also be