

Response: Serious injury and mortality forms will be sent to the fishery permit holders, and by law, participants in the fishery are required to report serious injury/mortalities within 48 hours of return.

Comment 66: One commenter noted that in the SAR for Hawaiian monk seals there is a statement that fishery interactions with the species "remain to be thoroughly evaluated..." However, the stock assessment cites a 1993 paper by Nitta and Henderson that found one "event" per 34.4 hours of fishing. This sort of study should be repeated with a better attempt to obtain confidence intervals. A brief discussion of efforts that are underway would help in understanding whether these impacts are being assessed and/or addressed. The commenter requested an evaluation of fishery impacts.

Response: With regard to the bottomfish fishery, NMFS is discussing and planning for increased observer coverage. Also, new data forms for observers are being developed to collect more information on protected species. However, the type and degree of observer coverage needed in the bottomfish fishery has yet to be determined.

Comment 67: One commenter recommended that the SAR for Hawaiian monk seals include discussion of some of the research alluded to in previous stock assessments including scat analysis and at-sea tracking. This research had been recommended since at least 1995.

Response: An extensive study of at-sea movements of monk seals was funded and resumed in 2000. Because this SAR only covers information through 1999, this information is not included. A description of the study will appear in the 2002 SAR. No new reports or data summaries are available at this time.

Comment 68: One commenter noted that, although it appears that 246 Hawaiian monk seals have been entangled since 1982, there is little discussion as to when many of these entanglements were observed and no speculation on average annual serious injury and mortality. It is also not clear from the text whether this number is separate from or inclusive of later discussion of monk seals hooked in the pelagic longline fishery and recreational fisheries.

Response: The SAR does not state that 246 seal entanglements in marine debris have occurred. Rather, the report notes that there have been 197 entanglements observed, plus 6 deaths attributed to entanglement in debris. A parenthetical phrase indicating that the three longline

hookings are included in the total count of hookings has been added. A reference to a newly published paper has also been added to the revised report, which summarizes the data on entanglement in detail.

Dated: March 4, 2002.

David Cottingham,

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

[FR Doc. 02-5617 Filed 3-7-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022002B]

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's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Habitat Advisory Panel (HAP), and Advisory Panel (AP) will hold meetings.

DATES: The SSC meeting will be held on March 19, 2002, the HAP meeting will be held on March 20, 2002, and the AP meeting will be held on March 21, 2002. All meetings will be from 10 to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: All meetings will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Isla Verde Avenue, Isla Verde, Carolina, Puerto Rico.

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 SSC, HAP and AP will meet to discuss the items contained in the following agendas:

March 19, 2002—SSC

Call to Order

Adoption of agenda

Queen Conch

Recovery Plan

Habitat

EFH Final Guidelines

MRAG America's Inc. Outline and Discussion of Issues on Essential Fish

Habitat (EFH)

Coral Reef Conservation

Opportunities for Grant Proposals

Other Business

March 20, 2002—HAP

Call to order

Adoption of agenda of Issues on EFH

Procedure for HAP Comments on Proposed Projects

Fishing Gear Impact on EFH Coral Reef Conservation

Opportunities for Grant Proposals

Other Business

March 21, 2002

Call to order

Adoption of agenda

Education/Orientation

Comments

Other Business

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English.

However, simultaneous interpretation (Spanish-English) will be available during the AP meeting (March 21, 2002). 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 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 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 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 five days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 05, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 02-5623 Filed 3-7-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022602G]

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 Open Access Permitting Subcommittee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee will hold a telephone conference, which is open to the public.

DATES: The telephone conference will be held Tuesday, March 26, 2002 commencing at 10 a.m. and continuing until business for the day is complete.

ADDRESSES: Four listening stations will be available at the following locations:

1. NMFS Northwest Region, Director's Conference Room, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Building 1, Seattle, WA 98115, Contact: Mr. Bill Robinson, (206) 526-6142;

2. Pacific Fishery Management Council, East Conference Room, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384, Contact: Mr. Jim Seger, (503) 326-6352;

3. California Department of Fish and Game, Conference Room, Room 1320, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Contact: Mr. LB Boydston, (916) 653-6281;

4. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resource Building, Room 677, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501, Contact: (360) 902-2819.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jim Seger, telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the telephone conference is to review preliminary results from a descriptive analysis of the groundfish open access fleet.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the subcommittee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal subcommittee action during this meeting. Subcommittee 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 subcommittee'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: March 4, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-5619 Filed 3-7-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022102C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 116-1662

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Sea World, Inc., 7007 Sea World Drive, Orlando, Florida 32821, has applied in due form for a permit to import one beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) for the purposes of public display.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before April 8, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, California 90802, (562/980-4021).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education 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 permit 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 other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore 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 (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant requests authorization to import one male, adult beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*), identified as "Imaq", from the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Center; British Columbia, Canada to Sea World of California in San Diego, California. The applicant requests this import for the purpose of public display. The receiving facility, Sea World San Diego, 1720 South Shores Road, San Diego, California 92109 is: (1) open to the public on regularly scheduled basis with access that is not limited or restricted other than by charging for an admission fee; (2) offers an educational program based on professionally accepted standards of the AZA and the Alliance for Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums; and (3) holds an Exhibitor's License, number 93-C-069, issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Animal Welfare Act.

In addition to determining whether the applicant meets the three public display criteria, NMFS must determine whether the applicant has demonstrated that the proposed activity is humane and does not represent any unnecessary risks to the health and welfare of marine mammals; that the proposed activity by itself or in combination with other activities, will not likely have a significant adverse impact on the species or stock; and that the applicant's expertise, facilities and resources are adequate to accomplish successfully the objectives and activities stated in the application.

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.

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: March 1, 2002.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 02-5622 Filed 3-7-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S