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Louisa Koch,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
[FR Doc. 03-7251 Filed 3-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KA-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031903D]

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 Essential Fish Habitat Tech Team and Representatives from its Groundfish, Monkfish, Habitat, Sea Scallops, Skate, Whiting and Herring Advisory Panels in April, 2003. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will held on Thursday, April 10, 2003, at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Taunton, 700 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780; telephone: (508) 823-0430.

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; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The panels will develop one habitat closed area alternative that will be analyzed and incorporated into both Amendment 10 to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Amendment 13 to the Multispecies FMP.

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: March 20, 2003.

Matteo J. Milazzo,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 03-7254 Filed 3-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021203B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 763-1534

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for permit amendment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Smithsonian Institution, National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C. 20008-2598 (Dr. Daryl Boness, Principal

Investigator) has requested an amendment to scientific research permit no. 763-1534.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before April 25, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request 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; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376; and

Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Northeast Region, NOAA Fisheries, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (508)281-9250; fax (508)281-9371.

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 amendment 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: Ruth Johnson or Jennifer Skidmore, (301)713-2289 or e-mail:

Ruth.Johnson@noaa.gov or
Jennifer.Skidmore@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment, to Permit No. 763-1534 issued on March 10, 2000 (65 FR 14947), 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).

Permit No. 763-1534 authorizes the National Zoological Park to import and export up to 252 Atlantic grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) samples from Nova Scotia, Canada. The Permit also authorizes opportunistic collection, import/export of specimen materials from non-endangered pinnipeds and cetaceans. The samples are used for DNA analysis to determine if grey seal alternative mating strategies exist across all ages and provide comparable rates of reproductive success to the primary strategy.