

protected areas in Mid-Atlantic exclusive economic zone and consider renaming the Ecosystem Committee; Finalize issues to be addressed for Amendment 9 public hearing draft and address issues to be included in Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish fishery management plan; Receive briefing from NMFS officials on its fishery dependent data collection systems (recreational and commercial) and receive comment on the proposed regulations for electronic dealer reporting; Receive update on NMFS bycatch activities; Receive report on cooperative research activities involving National Fisheries Institute-SMC, Rutgers University, Northeast Fisheries Science Center; Receive report on most recent Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Research Committee process; Receive and hear committee and organizational reports, and act on any new and/or continuing business, e.g., reinitiation of tilefish limited entry system.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council 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 actions to address such emergencies.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Joanna Davis at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 30, 2003.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

[FR Doc. E4-196 Filed 01-02-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122903E]

#### 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 Social Sciences Advisory Committee in January, 2004 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2004 at 10 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, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Social Science Advisory Committee will review progress on the development of Amendment 1 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) including social and economic data and analytical approaches being utilized in the Herring Amendment 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS).

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#### 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: December 30, 2003.

**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. 122303J]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 1048-1717

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dr. Peter J. Stein, Scientific Solutions, Inc., Nashua, New Hampshire, has been issued a permit to take the marine mammals listed below for purposes of scientific research.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit 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, [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res); 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:**

Tammy Adams or Steve Leathery, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 5, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 62563) that a request for a scientific research permit to take gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), endangered blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*), endangered fin whales (*B. physalus*), endangered humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), minke whales (*B. acutorostrata*), endangered sei whales (*B. borealis*), endangered sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*), Pacific white-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*), bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*), short-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), northern right whale dolphins (*Lissodelphis borealis*), killer whales (*Orcinus orca*), short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), Baird's beaked whales (*Berardius bairdii*), mesoplodont beaked whales (*Mesoplodon spp.*), Cuvier's beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*), California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), threatened Guadalupe fur seals (*Arctocephalus*