

The affirmative finding process requires that the harvesting nation meet several conditions related to compliance with the IDCP. A nation may opt to provide information regarding compliance with the IDCP directly to NMFS on an annual basis or to authorize the IATTC to release the information to NMFS in years when NMFS will review and consider whether to issue an affirmative finding determination without an application from the harvesting nation.

An affirmative finding will be terminated if the Assistant Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of State, determines that the requirements of 50 CFR 216.24(f) are no longer being met or that a nation is consistently failing to take enforcement actions on violations which diminish the effectiveness of the IDCP. Every 5 years, the government of the harvesting nation, must request an affirmative finding and submit the required documentary evidence directly to the Assistant Administrator.

As a part of the affirmative finding process set forth in 50 CFR 216.24(f), the Assistant Administrator considered documentary evidence submitted by the Republic of El Salvador and obtained from the IATTC and the Department of State and determined that the requirements under the MMPA to receive an affirmative finding have been met.

After consultation with the Department of State, NMFS granted the Republic of El Salvador's affirmative finding allowing the importation into the United States of yellowfin tuna and products derived from yellowfin tuna harvested in the ETP after March 3, 1999, by El Salvadorian-flag purse seine vessels or vessels under El Salvadorian jurisdiction. This finding will remain in effect until March 31, 2004.

In subsequent years 2004 through 2007, the Assistant Administrator will determine on an annual basis whether the Republic of El Salvador is meeting the requirements under section 101(a)(2)(B) and (C) of the MMPA. If necessary, documentary evidence may also be requested from the Republic of El Salvador to determine whether the affirmative finding criteria are being met. If the affirmative finding for the Republic of El Salvador is renewed after NMFS's annual review in the years 2004 through 2007, the Republic of El Salvador must submit a new application in early 2008 for an affirmative finding to be effective for the period April 1, 2008, through March 31, 2009, and the subsequent 4 years.

Dated: December 31, 2003.

Rebecca Lent,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122303D]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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 Research Steering Committee in January, 2004. Recommendations from the committee will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will held on Monday, January 26, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA; 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; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will discuss and continue work on a process to review and integrate the results of cooperative research into the management process. It will also work on developing research priorities for 2004 for consideration by the Council and the NMFS Regional Administrator.

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: December 31, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. E3-00690 Filed 1-5-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122903H]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings and Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of reports; public meetings and hearings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has begun its annual preseason management process for the 2004 ocean salmon fisheries. This document announces the availability of Council documents as well as the dates and locations of Council meetings and public hearings comprising the Council's complete schedule of events for determining the annual proposed and final modifications to ocean salmon fishery management measures. The agendas for the March and April Council meetings will be published in subsequent **Federal Register** documents prior to the actual meetings.

DATES: Written comments on the salmon management options must be received by March 30, 2004, at 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time.

ADDRESSES: Documents will be available from and written comments should be sent to Mr. Donald Hansen, Chairman, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384, telephone: 503-820-2280 (voice) or 503-820-2299 (fax). For specific meeting and hearing locations, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Chuck Tracy, telephone: 503-820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Schedule for Document Completion and Availability

March 2, 2004: "Review of 2003 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" and "Preseason Report I-Stock Abundance Analysis for 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" will be available to the public from the Council office and posted on the Council website at <http://www.p council.org>.

March 23, 2004: "Preseason Report II-Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" and public hearing schedule will be mailed to the public and posted on the Council website at <http://www.p council.org>. The report will include a description of the adopted salmon management options and a summary of their biological and economic impacts.

April 5, 2004: "Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 2004 Management Measures for the Ocean Salmon Fishery Managed under the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan" will be available at the Council meeting at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento, Sacramento, CA and posted on the Council website at <http://www.p council.org>.

April 21, 2004: Council adopts ocean salmon fishing management measures will be posted on the Council website at <http://www.p council.org>.

May 1, 2004: Federal regulations will be implemented and "Preseason Report III-Analysis of Council Adopted Ocean Salmon Management Measures for 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" will be available from the Council office and posted on the Council web site at <http://www.p council.org>.

Meetings and Hearings

January 20–23, 2004: The Salmon Technical Team (STT) will meet at the Council office in a public work session to draft "Review of 2003 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" and to consider any other estimation or methodology issues pertinent to the 2004 ocean salmon fisheries.

February 17–20, 2004: The STT will meet at the Council office in a public work session to draft "Preseason Report I-Stock Abundance Analysis for 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" and to consider any other estimation or methodology issues pertinent to the 2004 ocean salmon fisheries.

March 8–12, 2004: The Council and advisory entities will meet at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel, Tacoma, WA to adopt the 2003 salmon management options for public review.

March 29–30, 2004: Public hearings will be held to receive comments on the

proposed ocean salmon fishery management options adopted by the Council. All public hearings begin at 7 p.m. on the dates and at the locations specified here.

March 29, 2004: Chateau Westport, Beach Room, 710 W Hancock, Westport, WA 98595, telephone 360–268–9101.

March 29, 2004: Red Lion Hotel, South Umpqua Room, 1313 N Bayshore Drive, Coos Bay, OR 97420, telephone 541–269–4099.

March 30, 2004: Tradewinds Lodge and Restaurant, Convention Room, 400 South Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437–4806, telephone 707–964–4761.

April 5–9, 2004: Council and advisory entities meet at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento, 1401 Arden Way Sacramento, CA 95815, telephone: (916) 922–8041, to adopt 2004 management measures for implementation by NMFS.

April 6, 2004: Testimony on the management options is taken during the Council meeting at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento, Sacramento, CA.

Although non emergency issues not contained in the STT meeting agendas may come before the STT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal STT action during these meetings. STT action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and to any issues arising after publication of this document requiring emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the STT's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at 503–820–2280 (voice), or 503–820–2299 (fax) at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 30, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. 04–231 Filed 1–5–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122303L]

Marine Mammals; File No. 642–1536

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Joseph R. Mobley, Jr., Ph.D., Professor Psychology, University of Hawaii-West Oahu, 96–129 Ala Ike, Pearl City, Hawaii 96782 (Principal Investigator: Dr. Joe Mobley), has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 642–1536–00.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before February 5, 2004.

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

Protected Species Coordinator, Pacific Islands Region Office, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm. 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814–4700; phone (808)973–2935; fax (808)973–2941.

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: Jill Lewandowski, (301)713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 642–1536–00, issued on March 15, 2000 (65 FR 13949) is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA- 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the