

Research Steering and Joint Enforcement Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel in April and May, 2004 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held on April 30, 2004 and May 4, 2004. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held in Wakefield and Newburyport, MA. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

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; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Friday, April 30, 2004 at 9:30 a.m.
Research Steering Committee Meeting.
Location: Sheraton Colonial, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781) 245-9300.

The Research Steering Committee will hear an informal presentation on the status of NOAA Fisheries cooperative cod tagging program and review project objectives. The Committee will also complete work on a policy to incorporate new research results into the management process and initiate a discussion on the disposition of catch and the use of days-at-sea when vessels are engaged in cooperative research. They will address the possibility of allowing the use of B-days, as defined in Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, for cooperative research purposes. Finally, the Committee will develop a list of priorities and activities for 2004.

Tuesday, May 4, 2004 at 9:30 a.m.
Joint Enforcement Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting.

Location: New England Fishery Management Council Office, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

The Enforcement Committee and Advisors will review the current penalty schedule, and make recommendations with respect to egregious violations.

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

These meetings are 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: April 12, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E4-854 Filed 4-14-04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040604A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 881-1724

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Alaska SeaLife Center, 301 Railway Avenue, Seward, Alaska 99664, has been issued a permit to import and export marine mammal parts 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; and Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 17, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 70234) that a request for a scientific research permit to take parts from the following species: Antarctic fur seal (*Arctocephalus gazella*), Australian fur seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus*), Australian sea lion (*Neophoca cinerea*),

California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*), harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*), northern fur seal (*Callorhinus ursinus*), ribbon seal (*Phoca fasciata*), ringed seal (*Phoca hispida*), Southern fur seal (*Arctocephalus australis*), Southern sea lion (*Otaria flavescens*), Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*), bowhead whale (*Balaena mysticetus*), gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), and sperm whale (*Physeter catodon*) had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant has been authorized to import and export specimen samples (hard and soft parts) from the above-named species for a number of projects to study marine mammal population ecology, diet and nutrition, reproductive physiology, toxicology, and health. The applicant has been issued a five-year permit.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: April 9, 2004.

Stephen L. Leathery,
Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 04-8594 Filed 4-14-04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030304D]

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS); Approved Mobile Transmitting Units for Use in Alaska Fisheries Requiring VMS

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and