

remains high at night to that distance from the seismic vessel. As a result, no take by injury or death is anticipated, and the potential for temporary or permanent hearing impairment is very low and will be avoided through the incorporation of the proposed mitigation measures mentioned in this document.

While the number of potential incidental harassment takes will depend on the distribution and abundance of marine mammals in the vicinity of the survey activity, the number of potential harassment takings is estimated to be small. In addition, the proposed seismic program will not interfere with any legal subsistence hunts, since seismic operations will not take place in subsistence whaling and sealing areas and will not affect marine mammals used for subsistence purposes.

Proposed Authorization

NMFS proposes to issue an IHA to L-DEO for conducting a low-intensity oceanographic seismic survey in the Aleutian Island area of the North Pacific Ocean, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated. NMFS has preliminarily determined that the proposed activity would result in the harassment of small numbers of marine mammals; would have no more than a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal stocks; and would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of species or stocks for subsistence uses.

Information Solicited

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments and information concerning this request (see **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: March 14, 2005.

Laurie K. Allen,

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

[FR Doc. 05-5542 Filed 3-18-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031505E]

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meetings will be held April 4, 2005, through April 11, 2005. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council's Advisory Panel will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, April 4 and continue through Friday April 8, 2005. The Scientific and Statistical Committee will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, April 4, 2005, and continue through Wednesday, April 6, 2005.

The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6 and continuing through Monday April 11. All meetings are open to the public except executive sessions. The Ecosystem Committee will meet Monday, April 4, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Enforcement Committee will meet Tuesday, April 5 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports

- a. Executive Director's Report
- b. NMFS Management Report 9 include report on (1) Data Quality act requirements, (2) National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements for annual specification
- c. Coast Guard Report
- d. Alaska Department of Fish & Game Report (Review Board of Fisheries March actions, initiating action as necessary)
- e. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Report
- f. Protected Species Report (T)

2. Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program: NMFS Report on CDQ allocation process. State of Alaska's Consultation on CDQ allocation recommendations.

3. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish (GOA) Rationalization: Receive Community Committee report and other available information and refine alternatives as appropriate.

4. GOA Rockfish Demonstration Project: Preliminary Review of EA/RIR/IRFA, action as necessary.

5. Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BS/AI) Pacific Cod Allocations: Review/refine alternatives and options.

6. Bering Sea and Aleutian Island (BSAI) Salmon Bycatch: Review reports from pollock cooperatives. Finalize alternatives for analysis.

7. *Bairdi* Crab Split: Develop problem statement/refine Alternatives.

8. Groundfish Management: Receive Non-Target Species Committee report and determine next steps. GOA Other species calculation: Initial Review.

Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) for Internal Weighted Groundline: Review and action as necessary. EFP for salmon excluder and action as necessary.

9. Scallop: Review Scallop Stock Assessment Fishery Evaluation. Final action on Scallop Fishery Management Plan.

10. Staff Tasking: Review tasking and committees and initiate action as appropriate. Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Priorities, review objectives and develop workplan.

11. Other Business.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC): The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

1. GOA Rockfish
2. BS/AI Pacific cod allocations
3. BS/AI Salmon Bycatch
4. Groundfish Management
5. Scallop

Advisory Panel: The Advisory Panel will address the same agenda issues as the Council.

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 identified 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. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 16, 2005.

Emily Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. E5-1214 Filed 3-18-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031105H]

Endangered Species; File No. 1295

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for modification

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center (Responsible Official- Dr. John Boreman), 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1097, has requested a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1295.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before April 20, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The modification 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)427-2521; and Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9328; fax (978)281-9394.

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 modification request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov*. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1295.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick Opay or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modification to Permit No. 1295, issued on June 4, 2001 (66 FR 29934) is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

Permit No. 1295 authorizes the permit holder to take loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and green (*Chelonia mydas*) sea turtles for scientific research. The current permit authorizes the sampling of turtles taken during bottom trawl, scallop, acoustic and Illex squid surveys; research designed to develop and test methods to reduce incidental bycatch of sea turtles that occurs in a commercial pound net fishery of Virginia; sampling during research designed to develop and test methods to reduce incidental bycatch of sea turtles that occurs in scallop drag fisheries; and the sampling of sea turtles captured during the NMFS Northeast Fishery Science Center's biennial shark longline surveys. The permit holder requests authorization to extend the duration of the pound net experiment from 42 days to 55 days. The permit holder also requests an increase in the number of annual lethal takes of loggerhead sea turtles from 2 to 4, the number of annual lethal takes of Kemp's ridley sea turtles from 3 to 6, and the number of annual lethal takes of green sea turtles from 0 to 1. The permit holder also asks for a total annual take increase of leatherbacks from 1 to 2 including an increase in allowed annual lethal takes from 0 to 1, and the addition of 1 hawksbill annual take that may be lethal. This research permit expires May 31, 2006. The requested modifications are necessary so the permit holder can continue bycatch reduction research relating to the pound net fishery.

Dated: March 16, 2005.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 05-5540 Filed 3-18-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030905E]

Marine Mammals; File No. 978-1567

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Paul Nachtigall, Ph.D., University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, P.O. Box 1346, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 978-1567-00.

ADDRESSES: The amendment 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)427-2521; and

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan or Jennifer Skidmore, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested amendment has been granted 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).

This amendment (Permit No. 978-1567-01) extends the expiration date of the permit from June 30, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.