

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 042605E]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Marine Mammal Advisory Committee (MMAC) to discuss issues relating to the interactions of marine mammals with pelagic fisheries in the Hawaiian Islands.

DATES: The meeting of the MMAC will be held on May 11–12, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council Office Conference Room, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMAC will meet on May 11–12, 2005, at the Council Conference Room to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Introductions
2. Hawaii longline fishery, current status
3. Pending plan to address category 1 classification of the Hawaii longline fishery
4. Update on observer data records of marine mammal interactions with Hawaii-based longliners
5. Statistical aspects of estimating fleet wide interactions between marine mammals and Hawaii-based longline vessels
6. Studies of odontocete population size and structure in the main Hawaiian Islands
7. Stock assessment reports for marine mammals in the Western Pacific Region
8. Opportunistic information on False Killer Whales from the SPLASH program
9. Recreational fisheries and interactions with marine mammals
10. Longline—depredation research on toothed whales
11. Behavioral aspects of toothed whale depredation on longlines
12. Fleet communication strategies to avoid protected species interactions with longlines

13. Other business
14. Recommendations

The order in which the agenda items are addressed may change. The MMAC will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business. Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the MMAC for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Plan Team action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issue arising after publication of this document that requires 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 Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522–8220 (voice) or (808) 522–8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 27, 2005.

Tracey Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 042605D]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold hearings on fishery data collection management options in Hilo, HI and Honolulu, HI. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific times, dates, and agenda items).

ADDRESSES: The hearings will be held at the Hawaii Naniloa Hotel, 93 Banyan Dr., Hilo, HI 96720 and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

DATES: The hearings will be held in Hilo, HI on May 13 2005, from 6 p.m.

to 9 p.m. and Honolulu, HI on May 19, 2005, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In December of 2004, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) was advised by NMFS that overfishing of Pacific-wide bigeye tuna was occurring and requested the Council take appropriate action to end overfishing. At its 126th meeting, March 14–17, 2005, in Honolulu, the Council took action and unanimously voted to develop initiatives to address overfishing of bigeye tuna in Hawaii. One initiative is to require permits and catch reports for Hawaii small pelagic fishing boats in order to provide scientists with complete fishery information.

Bottomfish resources in the main Hawaiian islands have been locally depleted and an overfishing situation similar to bigeye tuna may be occurring. The Council will begin to assess and develop measures to address overfishing in the main Hawaiian islands by collecting data from the fishery and establishing measures to reduce fishing mortality. Options for collecting data on the bottomfish and pelagic fisheries in Hawaii will be presented to the Council in June.

The Council is seeking comments and opinions on these initiatives and will present management options for fishery data collection for Pelagic and Bottomfish fisheries in Hawaii at the following hearings:

Friday, May 13, 2005, at the Hawaii Naniloa Hotel in Hilo, HI, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Thursday, May 19, 2005, at the Council Office in Honolulu, HI, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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 hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds,