

Dated: August 11, 2005.

**Barbara E. Tillman,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

[FR Doc. E5-4515 Filed 8-17-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[Docket No.: 050808218-5218-01]

#### Effect of the Propane Education and Research Council's Operation, Market Changes and Federal Programs on Propane Consumers

**AGENCY:** International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of inquiry.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (the Department) is seeking public comment on whether the operation of the Propane Education and Research Council (PERC), in conjunction with the cumulative effects of market changes and Federal programs, has had an effect on residential, agricultural, process and nonfuel users of propane. This notice of inquiry is part of an effort to collect information to fulfill requirements under the Propane Education and Research Act of 1996 that established PERC and requires the Secretary of Commerce to assess the impact of PERC's activities on propane consumers.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be submitted on or before September 19, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

E-mail: [Shannon\\_Fraser@ita.doc.gov](mailto:Shannon_Fraser@ita.doc.gov). Include the phrase "Propane Price Impacts on Consumers" in the subject line;

Fax: (202) 482-0170 (Attn: Shannon Fraser);

Mail or Hand Delivery/Courier: Shannon Fraser, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Constitution Ave., NW., Suite 4053, Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions on the submission of comments or to request copies of submitted comments, contact Shannon Fraser by telephone at (202) 482-3609, or e-mail at [Shannon\\_Fraser@ita.doc.gov](mailto:Shannon_Fraser@ita.doc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Propane Education and Research Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-284) established the Propane Education and Research Council to enhance consumer and

employee safety and training, to provide for research and development of clean and efficient propane utilization equipment, and to inform and educate the public about safety and other issues associated with the use of propane.

Section 12 of the Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to prepare and submit to Congress and the Secretary of Energy a report examining whether operation of the Council, in conjunction with the cumulative effects of market changes and Federal programs, has had an effect on propane consumers, including residential, agriculture, process, and nonfuel users of propane. The Secretary of Commerce shall consider and, to the extent practicable, shall include in the report submissions by propane consumers, and shall consider whether: (1) There have been long-term and short-term effects on propane prices as a result of the Council's activities and Federal programs; and (2) whether there have been changes in the proportion of propane demand attributable to various market segments. If the Secretary of Commerce concludes that there has been an adverse effect related to the Council's activities, the Secretary of Commerce shall make recommendations for correcting the situation.

In order to assist in the preparation of this study, the Department is seeking public comment on the effect of PERC's operation, market changes and Federal programs on propane consumers. For information on the operation and programs of PERC, you may visit PERC's Web site at <http://www.propanecouncil.org> or call PERC at (202) 452-8975.

The Department encourages interested persons who wish to comment to do so at the earliest possible time. The period for submission of comments will close on September 19, 2005. The Department will consider all comments received before the close of the comment period. Comments received after the end of the comment period will be considered if possible, but their consideration cannot be assured. The Department will not accept comments accompanied by a request that a part or all of the material be treated confidentially because of its business proprietary nature or for any other reason. The Department will return such comments and materials to the persons submitting the comments and will not consider them. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be a matter of public record and will be available for public inspection and copying. All comments must be submitted to the Department through one of the methods listed under **ADDRESSES**.

The office does not maintain a separate public inspection facility. If you would like to view any comments received in response to this solicitation, please contact the individual listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**Joseph Bogosian,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing.*

[FR Doc. E5-4514 Filed 8-17-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061405A]

#### Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Port Sutton Navigation Channel, Tampa Bay, FL

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of application and proposed authorization for an incidental take authorization; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Jacksonville District (Corps) for authorizations to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to expanding and deepening the Port Sutton Navigation Channel in Tampa Harbor, FL (Port Sutton project). Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue a 1-year Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to the Corps to incidentally take, by harassment, bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) as a result of conducting this activity and the Corps' application for regulations.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be received no later than September 19, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the application should be addressed to Steve Leathery, Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Species, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Md 20910. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments on this action is [PR1.061405A@noaa.gov](mailto:PR1.061405A@noaa.gov). Comments sent via email, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size. A copy of the application containing a list of references used in this document may be obtained by writing to the address

provided or by telephoning the contact listed under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Publications referenced in this document are available for viewing, by appointment during regular business hours, at the address provided here during this comment period.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Layne Bolen, NMFS, (301) 713-2289, ext 117.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization may be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses, and provided that the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as "an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival."

Subsection 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA established an expedited process by which citizens of the United States can apply for an authorization to incidentally take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment. Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA now defines "harassment" as:

any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild [Level A harassment]; or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering [Level B harassment].

Subsection 101(a)(5)(D) establishes a 45-day time limit for NMFS review of an application followed by a 30-day public notice and comment period on any proposed authorizations for the

incidental harassment of small numbers of marine mammals.

**Summary of Request**

On February 26, 2004, NMFS received a request from the Corps for an authorization to take bottlenose dolphins incidental to using blasting during enlargement of the Port Sutton Navigation Channel, a part of the Tampa Harbor Federal Navigation Project, in the northern portion of Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida. The purpose of the project is to enlarge the navigation channel to accommodate larger vessels and incorporate an additional channel segment into the Federal channel. Completion of the dredging project may require blasting and/or a clamshell or cutterhead dredge. The dredging will remove approximately 900,000 cubic yards of material from the existing navigation channel and extension. The Corps proposes to widen the 3,930-ft (1,198-m) long navigation channel to 290 feet (88 m) bottom-width, deepen to 42 feet (13 m) at mean low-low water (mllw), and lengthen the channel to 6,195 ft (1,888 m) in length with the previously discussed dimensions. Material removed from the dredging will be placed in the existing upland dredged material management area CMDA-2D. The project is proposed to start in March, 2006 and last approximately 18 months.

The Corps expects the contractor to employ underwater confined blasting and dredging to construct the project. Blasting may have adverse impacts on bottlenose dolphins and manatees (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) inhabiting the area near or utilizing the northern portion of Tampa Bay. Dolphins and other marine mammals have not been documented to be directly affected by dredging activities other than blasting.

While the Corps does not presently have a blasting plan from the contractor, which will specifically identify the number of holes that will be drilled, the amount of explosives that will be used for each hole, the number of blasts per day (usually no more than 3/day), or the number of days the construction is anticipated to take to complete, the Corps submitted a description of a completed project in San Juan Harbor, Puerto Rico as an example. For that project, the maximum weight of the explosives used for each event was 375 lbs (170 kg) and the contractors detonated explosives once or twice daily from July 16 to September 9, for a total of 38 individual detonations. Normal practice is for each charge to be placed approximately 5 - 10 ft (1.5 - 3

m) deep within the rock substrate, depending on how much rock needs to be broken and how deep a channel depth is authorized. The charges are placed in the holes and tamped with rock. Therefore, if the total explosive weight needed is 375 lbs (170 kg) and they have 10 holes, they would average 37.5 lbs (17.0 kgs)/hole. However, a more likely weight for this project may be only 90 lbs (41 kgs) total and, therefore, 9 lbs (4.1 kg)/hole. Charge weight and other determinations are expected to be made by the Corps and the contractor approximately 30-60 days prior to commencement of the construction project. Because the charge weight and other information is not presently available, NMFS will require the Corps to provide this information to NMFS, including calculations for impact/mitigation zones to protect marine mammals from injury, prior to commencing work. However, as described later in this document, mitigation measures will require the Corps to limit detonations to the minimum level necessary to accomplish the task and the larger the charge weight, the greater the safety zone that will be required to protect marine mammals.

**Summary of Request for Regulations**

While the Corps was coordinating with NMFS on the application and issuance of an IHA for the Miami Turning Basin in early 2003 (see 68 FR 32016, May 29, 2003), the Corps identified several additional Federal navigation projects that might need similar MMPA authorizations within the next few years, if confined blasting is used as a construction technique. To ensure consistency across MMPA authorizations for these dredging projects, and efficiency for both agencies, NMFS recommended that the Corps apply for these authorizations under section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA, instead of individually under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA. This request was received on December 1, 2003. At this time the Miami Turning Basin project, the Alafia River project (see 69 FR 29693, May 25, 2004) and this project are proposed to be covered by the section 101(a)(5)(A) rulemaking. This rule, if implemented, and Letters of Authorization (LOA) issued under that rule, would replace the IHA process for these activities in the Jacksonville District. Each application for an LOA for additional projects within the Jacksonville District for confined blasting within the District would require separate public review and comment, prior to issuance of an LOA.

NMFS expects to start this rulemaking shortly.

### Description of the Marine Mammals Affected by the Activity

General information on marine mammal species found off the east coast of the United States can be found in Waring *et al.* (2001, 2002). These reports are available on the Internet at the following location: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/PR2/Stock\\_Assessment\\_Program/sars.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR2/Stock_Assessment_Program/sars.html)

Bottlenose dolphins and West Indian manatees are the only marine mammal species expected in the activity area. However, take authorizations for manatees are issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and are not covered by this proposed IHA or any future rulemaking for LOAs issued by NMFS. Wang *et al.* (2002) provides the following minimum population estimates for the Gulf of Mexico bottlenose dolphin stocks: outer shelf, 43,233; shelf and slope, 4,530; western Gulf, 2,938; northern Gulf, 3,518; eastern Gulf, 8,953; and Bay, Sound & Estuarine waters, 3,933.

The best estimate is that the Tampa Bay bottlenose dolphin population (which includes any dolphins within the Port Sutton project area) consists of 559 individuals (Wang *et al.*, 2002). Previous population estimates for Tampa Bay include Wells *et al.* (1996), Weigle (1990), Scott *et al.* (1989) Wells (1986), Thompson (1981), and O'Dell and Reynolds (1980). A monitoring study of bottlenose dolphins in Tampa Bay was conducted from 1988–1993. The results of that study were published in Wells *et al.* (1996). It is the most recent study of those animals currently available (R. Wells, pers. comm. to T. Jordan, Corps, 2004). The study identified a population size ranging between 437 and 728 individuals utilizing three different survey and population estimation techniques. Some of these animals have been shown to be in the vicinity of the Port Sutton channel. In a subsequent examination of the data, Urian (2002) identified five populations of bottlenose dolphins in Tampa Bay. Neither the Corps nor NMFS has determined if bottlenose dolphins in the Tampa Bay area utilize the Port Sutton channel directly. Wells *et al.* (1996), shows animals in the vicinity of the project area, but no detailed information is provided regarding area usage. The bottom of the basin is rock and sand, and the walls of the turning basin are vertical rock. The Corps recognizes that while the Port Sutton area may not be suitable habitat for dolphins in Tampa Bay, based on Urian's (2002) findings it is likely that

animals may enter the vicinity of the channel.

### Potential Effects on Marine Mammals

According to the Corps, bottlenose dolphins and other marine mammals have not been documented to be directly affected by dredging activities and therefore the Corps does not anticipate any incidental harassment of bottlenose dolphins by dredging. However, potential impacts to marine mammals from explosive detonations include both lethal and non-lethal injury, as well as Level B harassment. Marine mammals may be killed or injured as a result of an explosive detonation due to the response of air cavities in the body, such as the lungs and bubbles in the intestines. Effects are likely to be most severe in near-surface waters where the reflected shock wave creates a region of negative pressure called "cavitation." This is a region of near total physical trauma within which no animals would be expected to survive. A second possible cause of mortality or lethal injury is the onset of extensive lung hemorrhage. Extensive lung hemorrhage is considered debilitating and potentially fatal. Suffocation caused by lung hemorrhage is likely to be the major cause of marine mammal death from underwater shock waves. The onset of extensive lung hemorrhage for marine mammals will vary depending upon the animal's weight, with the smallest mammals having the greatest potential hazard range.

NMFS has also established criteria for determining non-lethal injury (Level A harassment) and non-injurious harassment (Level B harassment) from underwater explosions (see 66 FR 22450, May 4, 2001). For non-lethal injury from explosives the criteria are established as the peak pressure that will result in: (1) the onset of slight lung hemorrhage, or (2) a 50-percent probability level for a rupture of the tympanic membrane. These are injuries from which animals would be expected to recover on their own.

Although each of the tamped charges are fairly small (probably less than the 37 lbs (16.8 kg) per drilled hole used in Puerto Rico) and detonation staggered to reduce total pressure, the maximum horizontal extent for mortality/lethal injury and non-lethal injury (Level A harassment), estimated based on the total charge weight (375 lbs in the case of Puerto Rico) would be less than 1875 ft (571 m) and 3750 ft (1143 m) respectively. As these distances are based on an open-water charge calculation, and as stemmed/confined blasts result in a significant decrease in

the strength of the pressure wave released as compared to an open water blast, the zones for mortality and non-serious injury would be significantly less than these distances. As a result of these small impact zones, the relatively shallow waters for blasting, and the nature of bottlenose dolphins to remain in surface waters, the biological monitoring (aerial- and vessel-based) is expected to be effective in locating all marine mammals prior to them entering an area where injury or mortality might result and thereby preventing any takes by injury or mortality.

NMFS has also established dual criteria for what constitutes Level B acoustic harassment for all marine mammals by large scale detonations: (1) an energy-based temporary threshold shift (TTS) from received sound levels of 182 dB re 1 microPa<sup>2</sup>-sec cumulative energy flux in any 1/3 octave band above 100 Hz for odontocetes (derived from experiments with bottlenose dolphins (Ridgway *et al.*, 1997; Schlundt *et al.*, 2000); and (2) 12 psi peak pressure (cited by Ketten (1995) as associated with a safe outer limit for minimal, recoverable auditory trauma (i.e., TTS)). Recently, Finneran *et al.* (2002) found that TTS can be induced from single impulses at a peak pressure level of 160 kPa (23 psi), pk-pk pressures of 226 dB re 1 microPa, and total energy flux density of 186 dB re 1 mPa<sup>2</sup>-s (as tested in belugas). Thresholds returned to within 2 dB of the pre-exposure value approximately 4 minutes post exposure. However, no masked TTS was observed in the single bottlenose dolphin tested at the highest exposure conditions: peak pressure of 207 kPa (30 psi), 228 dB re 1 microPa pk-pk pressure, and 188 dB re 1 mPa<sup>2</sup>-s total energy flux. NMFS considers this conservative since a 23-psi pressure level was below the level that induced TTS in bottlenose dolphins. The Level B harassment zone, therefore, is the distance from the mortality/serious injury zone to the radius where neither of these criteria is exceeded.

### Mitigation

The Corps proposes to establish and monitor caution- and safety-zone radii to ensure that bottlenose dolphins will not be injured or killed during blasting and that impacts will be at the lowest level practicable. In the absence of acoustic measurements of the shock and pressure waves emanating from the detonations (due to the high cost and complex instrumentation needed), the following equations have been proposed by the Corps for blasting projects to determine zones for injury or mortality from an open water explosion and to

assist the Corps in establishing mitigation to reduce impacts to the lowest level practicable. The equations, based on Young (1991), are:

$$\text{Caution Zone Radius (R)} = 260 (W)^{1/3}$$

$$\text{Safety Zone Radius (R)} = 520 (W)^{1/3}$$

with radius (R) = 260 times or 520 times the cube root of the weight (W) of the explosive charge where R = radius of the zone in feet and W = weight of the explosive charge in lbs/delay. The Caution Zone represents the radius in feet from the detonation beyond which mortality would not be expected from an open-water blast. The Safety Zone is the approximate distance in feet beyond which injury (Level A harassment) is unlikely from an open-water explosion. These zones will be used for implementing mitigation measures to protect both marine mammals and sea turtles, although this activity area apparently does not include known sea turtle habitat.

These equations are believed to be conservative because they are based on (1) humans, who are more sensitive to the effects from the pressure wave of the detonation than are dolphins, and (2) unconfined charges while the proposed blasts in the Port Sutton channel will be confined (stemmed) charges (i.e., placed in a hole drilled in rock and tamped with rock). Studies (e.g., Nedwell and Thandavamoorthy, 1992) have shown that stemmed/confined blasts have a greater than 90 percent decrease in the strength of the pressure wave released as compared to an open water blast.

In the area where explosives are required to obtain channel design depth for each explosive charge, the Corps proposes that detonation will not occur if a marine mammal is sighted within the Safety Zone by a member of the marine mammal observer program.

Although the Caution Zone is considered to be an area for potential mortality, the Corps and NMFS believe that because all explosive charges will be stemmed, the true areas for potential mortality and injury will be significantly smaller than this area and, therefore, for reasons mentioned previously, it is unlikely that even non-serious injury will occur. This is particularly true in this case, since bottlenose dolphins are commonly found on the surface of the water and implementation of a mitigation/monitoring program is unlikely to miss bottlenose dolphins in such a small area.

Additional mitigation measures that will significantly lower potential impacts to marine mammals (and sea turtles) include: (1) confining the explosives in a hole with drill patterns restricted to a minimum of 8 ft (2.44 m)

separation from any other loaded hole; (2) restricting the hours of detonation from 2 hours after sunrise to 1 hour before sunset to ensure adequate observation of marine mammals in the safety zone; (3) staggering the detonation for each explosive hole in order to spread the explosive's total overpressure over time, which in turn will reduce the radius of the caution zone; (4) capping the hole containing explosives with rock in order to reduce the outward potential of the blast, thereby reducing the chance of injuring a dolphin or manatee; (5) matching, to the extent possible, the energy needed in the "work effort" of the borehole to the rock mass to minimize excess energy vented into the water column; and (6) conducting a marine mammal watch with no less than two qualified observers from a small water craft and/or an elevated platform on the explosives barge, at least 30 minutes before and continuing for 30 minutes after each detonation to ensure that there are no dolphins, manatees or sea turtles in the area at the time of detonation.

#### *Monitoring Program*

The Corps proposes to implement aerial and vessel-based observer monitoring programs. The vessel-based observer program will take place in a circular area at least three times the radius of the above described Caution Zone (called the watch zone). Detonation will not occur if a marine mammal or sea turtle is sighted within the safety zone and will be delayed until the animal(s) move(s) out of the safety zone on its own volition. The aerial and vessel-based marine mammal watch is proposed to be conducted for at least a half hour before and after the time of each detonation.

#### **Reporting**

NMFS proposes to require the Corps to submit a report of activities 120 days before the expiration of the proposed IHA if the proposed work has started. This report will include the status of the work being undertaken, marine mammals sighted during the monitoring period, any behavioral observations conducted on bottlenose dolphins and any delays in detonation due to marine mammals being within the safety zone.

In the unlikely event a marine mammal or sea turtle is injured or killed during blasting, the Contractor shall immediately notify the NMFS Southeast Regional Office.

#### **Endangered Species Act**

Under section 7 of the ESA, the Corps has determined that the Port Sutton

blasting activities will have no effect on listed species. This finding is supported by documentation provided in the Corps' Port Sutton Environmental Assessment (EA).

#### **National Environmental Policy Act**

The Corps prepared an EA on the Navigation Study for Tampa Harbor-Port Sutton Channel, Florida in September 2000 and made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) on October 11, 2000. In addition, NMFS completed an EA and made a FONSI on the impacts of blasting activities in Florida waters on marine life, particularly bottlenose dolphins. Therefore, preparation of an EIS on this action is not required by section 102(2) of the NEPA or its implementing regulations. A copy of the NMFS EA and FONSI are available upon request (see **ADDRESSES**).

#### **Preliminary Conclusions**

NMFS has preliminarily determined that the Corps' proposed action, including mitigation measures to protect marine mammals, should result, at worst, in the temporary modification in behavior by small numbers of bottlenose dolphins including temporarily vacating the Port Sutton Channel area to avoid the blasting activity and the potential for minor visual and acoustic disturbance from dredging and detonations. This action is expected to have a negligible impact on the affected species or stock of marine mammals. In addition, no take by injury or death is anticipated, and harassment takes will be at the lowest level practicable due to incorporation of the mitigation measures described in this document.

#### **Proposed Authorization**

NMFS proposes to issue an IHA to the Corps for the harassment of small numbers of bottlenose dolphins incidental to expanding and deepening the Port Sutton Channel in Tampa Harbor, FL, 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 only small numbers of bottlenose dolphins and will have no more than a negligible impact on this marine mammal stock.

#### **Information Solicited**

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments and information concerning this proposed IHA and the application for regulations request (see **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: August 12, 2005.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. 05-16392 Filed 8-17-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081105A]

#### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** Tuesday, August 30, 2005, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Renaissance Philadelphia Airport, 500 Stevens Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19113; telephone 610-521-5900.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331, ext. 19.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of this meeting is to solicit the Scientific and Statistical Committee's advice on technical information and management support tools, as well as, input on methods to acquire public assistance in goal setting for ecosystem based approaches to fisheries management.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Jan Saunders (302-674-2331 ext: 18) at the Council Office at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 15, 2005.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

[FR Doc. E5-4512 Filed 8-17-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081105D]

#### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notification of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Council/BOF Interim Joint Protocol Committee will meet on August 30, 2005, in Anchorage, AK.

**DATES:** August 30, 2005, 10:30 am to 5:30 pm.

**ADDRESSES:** Hawthorn Suites, Ltd, 1110 West 8th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501  
Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Council staff, Phone: 907-271-2809.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Agenda

(1) Approval of the previous meetings minutes,

(2) Review of the State of Alaska's proposed pollock trawl fishery in the Jude Island area, and

(3) Committee discussion and recommendations for Council and Board of Fisheries action.

#### 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: August 15, 2005.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

[FR Doc. E5-4513 Filed 8-17-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081105C]

#### Pacific Fishery Management Council; Ad Hoc Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee Meeting

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

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad Hoc Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee will hold a working meeting on September 8-9. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The Ad Hoc Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee working meeting will begin Thursday, September 8 at 8 a.m. and may go into the evening or until business for the day is completed. The meeting will reconvene from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, September 9.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be at the following address: DoubleTree Hotel Seattle Airport, Cascade 13, 18740 International Blvd., Seattle, WA 98188; telephone 206-246-8600.

*Council address:* Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Christopher Dahl, NEPA Specialist, 503-820-2280.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Ad Hoc Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee meeting is to provide a technical review of the habitat suitability data used to support alternatives and analyses in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Essential Fish Habitat Designation and Minimization of Adverse Impacts Final Environmental Impact Statement, currently in preparation by National Marine Fisheries Service. By holding a public meeting, the committee will provide opportunity for public participation in the review process. The committee will only consider technical and scientific questions and will not engage in policy discussions as part of its mission.

#### 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 at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 15, 2005.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

[FR Doc. E5-4511 Filed 8-17-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**