

license holders and, for vessel captains, to the address provided to NMFS by the captains during the prior information solicitation that ended August 18, 2003. All votes assigned to an eligible voter must be cast for the same decision, i.e., either all to approve or all to disapprove the applicable referendum question. The ballot must be signed by the eligible voter. Ballots must be mailed to Phil Steele, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Ballots for the second referendum must be received at that address by 4:30 p.m., eastern time, February 21, 2006; ballots received after that deadline will not be considered in determining the outcome of the initial referendum. Although it will not be required, voters may want to consider submitting their ballots by registered mail.

How Will the Outcome of the Second Referendum Be Determined?

Vote counting will be conducted by NMFS. Approval or disapproval of the referendums will be determined by a majority (i.e., a number greater than half of a total) of the weighted votes cast. NMFS will prepare a fishery bulletin announcing the results of the second referendum that is conducted and will distribute the bulletin to all Gulf reef fish permittees, including dealers, and to other interested parties. The results will also be posted on NMFS' Southeast Regional Office's Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

What Will Happen After the Second Referendum?

NMFS will present the results of the second referendum at the March 2006 Council meeting. If the second referendum fails, the Council cannot proceed with implementation an IFQ program for the commercial red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. If the second referendum is approved, the Council would be authorized, if it so decides, to submit the finalized plan amendment and regulations to the Secretary for review and approval or disapproval. The proposed IFQ program was developed through the usual Council and rulemaking processes that involved extensive opportunities for industry and public review and input at various Council meetings, public hearings, and during public comment periods on the plan amendment and regulations. The plan amendment and regulations could only be submitted to the Secretary for review and approval or disapproval if, in a second referendum, approval of the submission was passed by a majority (i.e., a number greater than

half of a total) of the votes cast by the eligible voters as described above.

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

Dated: December 30, 2005.

Margo Schulze-Haugen,

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

[FR Doc. 06-109 Filed 1-3-06; 2:49 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 123005B]

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Committee in January, 2006 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2006, at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, One Thurber Street, Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 734-9600; fax: (401) 734-9700.

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: The Committee will meet to begin development of a draft Amendment 11 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan. The primary purpose of this amendment is to improve the effectiveness of management in the general category fishery. In addition, it will address the allocation of scallops between the limited access and general category permit holders as well as consider options to change the scallop fishing year. The committee will review and develop issues to present for public comment at scoping meetings scheduled for spring 2006. Draft management alternatives will be developed at future meetings based on scoping comments

and specific policy direction from the Council. The committee will also have a closed door session to discuss the formation of an ad-hoc industry advisory panel for general category management.

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, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 30, 2005.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E5-8310 Filed 1-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 123005C]

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a joint public meeting of its Scientific and Statistical and Social Sciences Advisory Committees in January, 2006 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, January 27, 2006, at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 225 McClellan Highway, E. Boston, MA 02128; telephone: (617) 569-5250; fax: (617) 561-0971.

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: The Committees will meet to review and provide input on topics relevant to the Council's Ecosystems Pilot Project including, but not limited to, a review of the elements of the project including non-fishing marine resource uses; marine pollution and governance under an ecosystem approach. The committee will review the recent stakeholder workshops; provide advice for integrating, as necessary, ecosystems approaches with the current management structures and may consider other topics at their discretion.

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, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 30, 2005.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E5-8311 Filed 1-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 123005A]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Extension of scientific research permit 1376 - Modification 1.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received a request to extend the duration of a scientific research permit that currently allows Pacific salmon to be taken. The research is designed to increase knowledge of salmonids listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and help guide management and conservation efforts.

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on the application must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on February 6, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the application should be sent to Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232-1274. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503-230-5441 or by e-mail to resapps.nwr@NOAA.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garth Griffin, Portland, OR (ph.: 503-231-2005, Fax: 503-230-5435, e-mail: Garth.Griffin@noaa.gov). Permit application instructions are available at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Species Covered in This Notice

The following listed species (evolutionarily significant unit) is covered in this notice:

Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*): threatened naturally produced and artificially propagated Puget Sound (PS).

Authority

Scientific research permits are issued in accordance with section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq) and regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR Parts 222-226). NMFS issues permits based on findings that such permits: (1) Are applied for in good faith; (2) if granted and exercised, would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permit; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policy of section 2 of the ESA. The authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits.

Anyone requesting a hearing on this extension request should set out the specific reasons why such a hearing would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). Hearings are held at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA.

Extension Request

Permit 1376 - Modification 1

Permit 1376 currently authorizes the Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (University of Washington, School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences) to take juvenile and

adult PS Chinook salmon in Lakes Washington and Sammamish, Washington. The purpose of the research is to understand food web interactions, identify sources of mortality, and determine the energetic requirements for sustaining fish and zooplankton communities in each lake. The study helps researchers identify and quantify factors limiting survival and growth of juvenile salmon and other species. The UW captures (using gillnets, trawls, hook-and-line, trot lines, minnow traps, beach seines, and backpack electrofishing equipment), anesthetizes, handles, measures, weighs, and releases juvenile PS Chinook salmon and examines their stomach contents. The permittee is asking NMFS to allow the research to continue until December 31, 2006. No other changes are proposed. Further information on the actions covered by this permit may be obtained from previous notices, from the biological opinion analyzing the effects of the research (2002/01919C - which is still in effect), and on the web at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/>.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the request, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the request meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations. The final permit decision will not be made until after the end of the 30-day comment period. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 30, 2005.

Susan Pultz,

Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E6-16 Filed 1-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122005B]

Endangered Species; File No. 1557

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Molly Lutcavage, Department of Biology, 177 A Spaulding Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824-2617, has applied in due form for a permit to take leatherback