

DATES: Please submit nominations on or before August 24, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Please submit nominations to Tina Faecke, Administrative Officer, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8630, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8630. Nominations may also be submitted via fax to 301-975-5433 or e-mail at tina.faecke@nist.gov.

Additional information regarding the Committee, including its charter and executive summary may be found on its electronic home page at: <http://www.nehrp.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jack Hayes, Director, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8601, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8601, telephone 301-975-5640, fax 301-869-6275; or via e-mail at jack.hayes@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Committee Information

The Committee was established by the Department of Commerce in accordance with the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act, Public Law 108-360 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2) on June 27, 2006.

Objectives and Duties

1. The Committee will assess trends and developments in the science and engineering of earthquake hazards reduction, effectiveness of the Program in carrying out the activities under section 103(a)(2) of the Act, the need to revise the Program, the management, coordination, implementation, and activities of the Program.

2. The Committee functions solely as an advisory body, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

3. The Committee shall report to the Director of NIST.

4. Not later than one year after the first meeting of the Committee, and at least once every two years thereafter, the Committee shall report to the Director of NIST, on its findings of the assessments and its recommendations for ways to improve the Program. In developing recommendations, the Committee shall consider the recommendations of the United States Geological Survey Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee.

Membership

1. The Committee will consist of not fewer than 11 members, nor more than

15 members, who reflect a wide diversity of technical disciplines, competencies, and communities involved in earthquake hazards reduction. Members shall be selected on the basis of established records of distinguished service in their professional community and their knowledge of issues affecting the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

2. The Director of NIST shall appoint the members of the Committee, and they will be selected on a clear, standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance.

3. No committee member may be an "employee" as defined in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 7342(a)(1) of title 5 of the United States Code.

Miscellaneous

1. Members of the Committee will not be paid for their services, but will, upon request, be allowed travel and per diem expenses in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5701 *et seq.*, while attending meetings of the Committee or of its subcommittees, or while otherwise performing duties at the request of the chairperson, while away from their homes or a regular place of business.

2. Members of the Committee shall serve as Special Government Employees and are required to file an annual Executive Branch Confidential Financial Disclosure Report.

3. The Committee shall meet at least once per year. Additional meetings may be called whenever the Director of NIST requests a meeting.

Nomination Information

1. Nominations are sought from industry and other communities having an interest in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, such as, but not limited to, research and academic institutions, industry standards development organizations, state and local government bodies, and financial communities, who are qualified to provide advice on earthquake hazards reduction and represent all related scientific, architectural, and engineering disciplines

2. Nominees should have established records of distinguished service. The field of expertise that the candidate represents should be specified in the nomination letter. Nominations for a particular field should come from organizations or individuals within that field. A summary of the candidate's qualifications should be included with the nomination, including (where applicable) current or former service on

federal advisory boards and federal employment. In addition, each nomination letter should state that the person agrees to the nomination, acknowledges the responsibilities of serving on the Committee, and will actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the Committee.

3. The Department of Commerce is committed to equal opportunity in the workplace and seeks a broad-based and diverse Committee membership.

Dated: July 18, 2006.

James E. Hill,

Acting Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E6-11830 Filed 7-24-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Evaluation of State Coastal Management Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent to evaluate—rescheduled public meeting.

SUMMARY: The NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) announces a revised time for a public meeting previously included in an announcement of intent to evaluate the performance of the New Hampshire Coastal Management Program. Notice was previously given in the **Federal Register** on June 29, 2006, of the date of the site visit for the evaluation of the New Hampshire Coastal Management Program and the date, local time, and location of the public meeting. Notice is hereby given of the revised local time of the public meeting during the site visit.

Date and Time: The New Hampshire Coastal Management Program evaluation site visit will be held September 20–22, 2006. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2006, at 6 p.m. at the New Hampshire Coastal Program Office, Department of Environmental Services, 50 International Drive, Suite 200, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph Cantral, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Silver

Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 563-7118.

Dated: July 19, 2006.

David M. Kennedy,

Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. E6-11844 Filed 7-24-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 040112010-4114-02; I.D. 071306B]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Fishing Year 2006 Georges Bank Cod Hook Sector Operations Plan

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

ACTION: Notice; approval of operations plan.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces approval of additional provisions of the 2006 Georges Bank (GB) Hook Sector (Sector) Operations Plan, consistent with regulations implementing Amendment 13, as modified by Framework Adjustment 40-B to the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for fishing year (FY) 2006. The intent is to allow regulated harvest of groundfish by the GB Cod Hook Sector (Sector), consistent with the objectives of the FMP.

DATES: Effective July 25, 2006 through April 30, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Sector Operations Plan and the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) are available upon request from the NE Regional Office at the following mailing address: George H. Darcy, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. These documents may also be requested by calling (978) 281-9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Grant, Fishery Management Specialist, phone (978) 281-9145, fax (978) 281-9135, e-mail Mark.Grant@NOAA.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final rule implementing Amendment 13 to the FMP (69 FR 22906, April 27, 2004) specified a process for the formation of

sectors within the NE multispecies fishery and the allocation of total allowable catch (TAC) for a specific groundfish species, implemented restrictions that apply to all sectors, authorized the Sector, established the GB Cod Hook Sector Area (Sector Area), and specified a formula for the allocation of GB cod TAC to the Sector. Framework Adjustment 40-B (70 FR 31323, June 1, 2005) modified that process by allowing any vessel, regardless of gear used in previous fishing years, to join the Sector. All landings of GB cod by Sector participants, regardless of gear previously used, are used to determine the Sector's GB cod allocation for a particular fishing year.

In accordance with the regulations that specify the process of Sector approval, on March 8, 2006, the Sector submitted to NMFS a final version of its 2006 Operations Plan, Sector Agreement, and a Supplemental EA that analyzes the impacts of the proposed Operations Plan. With three substantive exceptions, the proposed FY 2006 Sector Operations Plan contained the same elements as the approved FY 2005 Sector Operations Plan. These exceptions are proposed exemptions from the differential DAS counting requirements, from the DAS Leasing Program vessel size restrictions, and from the 72-hr observer notification requirement. Rationale by the Sector for these proposed exemptions can be found in the **Federal Register** notice soliciting public comment on the FY 2006 GB Cod Hook Sector Operations Plan and Agreement (71 FR 16122, March 30, 2006).

NMFS previously approved the continuation of all provisions from the FY 2005 Sector Operations Plan for FY 2006 and approved the exemption from the 72-hr observer notification requirement (71 FR 25569, May 1, 2006). Based on public comment, and given the importance of effort control in the NE multispecies fishery, NMFS withheld approval of exemptions from differential DAS counting and DAS Leasing Program vessel size restrictions until the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) had the opportunity to discuss the merit of such exemptions.

At its June 13-15, 2006, meeting, the Council discussed the exemptions from differential DAS counting and the DAS Leasing Program size restrictions and considered the Sector's rationale for these exemptions. Both exemptions were endorsed by the Council, for FY 2006 only, without opposition. After consideration of the proposed Sector Agreement, which contains the Sector

Contract and Operations Plan, NMFS has concluded that the Sector Agreement, including the proposed exemptions from differential DAS counting and DAS Leasing Program vessel size restrictions, is consistent with the goals of the FMP and other applicable law and is in compliance with the regulations governing the development and operation of a sector as specified under 50 CFR 648.87. Accordingly, NMFS is granting the Sector exemptions from differential DAS counting and the vessel size restrictions of the DAS Leasing Program.

Revised Letters of Authorization will be issued to members of the Sector that will include the following additional exemptions, conditional upon their compliance with the 2006 Sector Agreement: Differential DAS counting as specified at § 648.82(n)(2)(i), and the vessel size restrictions of the DAS Leasing Program as specified at § 648.82(t)(2)(ix).

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

Dated: July 19, 2006.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. 06-6450 Filed 7-20-06; 2:18 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071706C]

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Coastal Commercial Fireworks Displays at Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, CA

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of a letter of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that a 1-year letter of authorization (LOA) has been issued to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS or the Sanctuary) to incidentally take, by Level B Harassment only, California sea lions and Pacific harbor seals incidental to authorizing professional fireworks displays within the Sanctuary in California waters.

DATES: The LOA will be effective from July 4, 2006, through July 3, 2007.