

Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

NMFS announces the availability of a revised list of equipment models that NMFS has approved as meeting the minimum design specifications for the careful release of sea turtles caught in hook and line fisheries. The revised list is available at [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Protected%20Resources/Required\\_Gear.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Protected%20Resources/Required_Gear.pdf). To see the previous list of NMFS approved models for the careful release of sea turtles caught in hook and line fisheries, see 69 FR 40734, July 6, 2004. Revision of the list is necessary due to NMFS approval of the following additional sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear for use in the pelagic and bottom longline fisheries for Atlantic HMS: (1) Robey dehooker (for external hooks only), (2) NOAA/Bergmann dehooker (with modification) and (3) notch modification of the previously approved Aquatic Release Conservation (ARC) dehooker pigtail curl. Other sea turtle bycatch mitigation gears previously approved remain approved for use in the fishery.

The list is not a list of required gears, but is a list of NMFS approved models of equipment that may be used as options to meet the requirements for gear that must be carried on board vessels participating in the Atlantic pelagic and bottom longline fisheries (50 CFR 635.21(c)(5)(i) and (d)(3)(i)). Equipment may also be fabricated and used by individuals according to the minimum design specifications (50 CFR 635.21(c)(5)(i)). The benefit of using these gears is to maximize safe and efficient gear removal from incidentally captured sea turtles, thereby minimizing the potential for serious injury or mortality.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 8, 2007.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

[FR Doc. E7-2686 Filed 2-14-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### NOAA's Oceans and Human Health Initiative Advisory Panel Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Oceans and Human Health Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108 447) created a national, interagency research program to improve understanding of the role of the oceans in human health. Section 903(a) of this Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to establish an Oceans and Human Health Initiative (OHHI) to coordinate and implement research and activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) related to the role of the oceans, the coasts, and the Great Lakes in human health. Section 903(b) of the OHH Act further authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to establish an oceans and human health advisory panel to assist in the development and implementation of the NOAA OHHI. This advisory panel is to provide for balanced representation of individuals with multi-disciplinary expertise in the marine and biomedical sciences and is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

In 2005, authorities provided to the Secretary of Commerce under the OHH Act were delegated to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and then redesignated to the Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management. Initial appointments to the advisory panel were completed by the NOAA Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management in May 2006.

**Date and Time:** The meeting will be held Thursday March 8, 2007 from 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. and Friday March 9, 2007 from 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

**Location:** The meeting will be held at the Hotel Deca, Seattle Washington, 4507 Brooklyn Ave, NE., Seattle, Washington (WA) 98105; (Tel) 206–634–2000. Meeting rooms are the Chancellor and College Rooms and subject to change.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Paul Sandifer, National Ocean Service Senior Scientist for Coastal Ecology, c/o Hollings Marine Laboratory, 331 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, South Carolina 29412; (Tel) 843–762–8814 (E-mail: [paul.sandifer@noaa.gov](mailto:paul.sandifer@noaa.gov)) or visit the OHHI Web site: <http://www.eol.ucar.edu/project/ohhi/>.

**Matters to be Considered:** (1) Approval of Advisory Panel Charter; (2) review of revised vision, mission and goals for the OHHI; (3) review of OHHI strategic objectives; (4) review of on-going research and outreach and education activities, products and services; (5) review of Congressionally

mandated interagency and agency OHH reports.

Dated: February 8, 2007.

**Marie Colton,**

*Technical Director, NOAA, National Ocean Service.*

[FR Doc. 07–699 Filed 2–14–07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-IE-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Draft Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2008–FY2013)

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and solicitation of public comments on the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Draft Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2008–FY2013).

**SUMMARY:** NOAA publishes this notice to announce availability of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Draft Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2008–FY2013) for public comment.

**DATES:** Comments must be received before 11:59 p.m. EDT, March 19, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic submission of comments via e-mail to [nccos.hd@noaa.gov](mailto:nccos.hd@noaa.gov) is preferred. Comments may also be sent by fax to (301) 713–4353 or mail to NOAA National Ocean Service, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, c/o Marybeth Bauer, PhD, 1315 East-West Highway, NOS HQTR Route N/SCI, Silver Spring, MD 20910. E-mail and fax comments should state “Comments” in the subject line.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marybeth Bauer, Ph.D., by e-mail at [nccos.hd@noaa.gov](mailto:nccos.hd@noaa.gov) (preferred) or mail at NOAA National Ocean Service, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, 1315 East-West Highway, NOS HQTR Route N/SCI, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or phone at (301) 713–3020. E-mail requests for information should state “Request for Information” in the subject line. An electronic copy of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Draft Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2008–FY2013) is available at: <http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/human/strategy/NCCOSDraftHDStrategicPlan.pdf>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) provides coastal

resource managers, other decision makers, and stakeholders with the ecosystem information and tools needed to balance society's environmental, social, and economic goals in mitigating and adapting to stressors such as climate change, extreme natural events, pollution, invasive species, and resource use.

Humans are integral to ecosystems, and the human dimensions of ecosystems are an integral focus of the science NCCOS conducts and conveys. NOAA's Strategic Plan (FY2006–FY2011) (available at: [http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/pdfs/STRATEGIC%20PLAN/Strategic\\_Plan\\_2006\\_FINAL\\_04282005.pdf](http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/pdfs/STRATEGIC%20PLAN/Strategic_Plan_2006_FINAL_04282005.pdf)) defines an ecosystem as a geographically specified system of organisms, including humans, the environment, and the processes that control its dynamics. An environment encompasses the biological, chemical, physical, and social conditions that surround organisms. The human dimensions of ecosystems can be expressed in terms of three points of interaction between environmental and human systems: human causes, consequences, and responses to environmental change. Encompassing a broad array of social science, humanities, and other disciplines, human dimensions research aims to understand these human-environmental interactions and facilitate use of this understanding to assist decisions affecting environmental processes and their societal outcomes.

NCCOS developed a Draft Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2008–2013) to define and implement human dimensions research critical to support an ecosystem approach to the management of coastal and ocean resources. The plan expands a Societal Stressors Objective in NCCOS's Strategic Plan (<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/documents/strategicplan.pdf>). The final Human Dimensions Strategic Plan will guide development of the NCCOS ecosystem science agenda, workforce, organization, partnerships, and other capacities, including research conducted through extramural partners, grants, and contracts. Planning, programming, budgeting, and execution of NCCOS activities will reflect the objectives of the final plan through FY 2013.

The draft plan puts forth the following human dimensions research goals and objectives. First, to provide human dimensions information essential to support an ecosystem approach to coastal and ocean resource management (Goal 1), the plan recommends identifying and

characterizing stakeholders and their values (Objective 1.1), monitoring human dimensions (Objective 1.2), assessing and monitoring human causes of ecosystem stress (Objective 1.3), documenting traditional and local ecological knowledge (Objective 1.4), addressing value and ethical dimensions (Objective 1.5), and developing institutional strategies (Objective 1.6). Second, to provide integrated ecosystem information essential to support an ecosystem approach to coastal and ocean resource management, the plan recommends developing and operationalizing integrative information products and tools (Objective 2.1) and defining and implementing integrated ecosystem assessments (Objective 2.2). Third, to promote resilient ecosystems (Goal 3), the plan recommends assessing the cumulative impacts of hazards on coastal communities (Objective 3.1), assessing risk and vulnerability (Objective 3.2), developing risk communication strategies (Objective 3.3), and evaluating forecasting and other capabilities (Objective 3.4). Finally, to provide critical support (Goal 4), the plan recommends building essential organizational capacities (Objective 4.1) and developing communications, outreach, and educational strategies (Objective 4.2).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments on the Draft Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2008–2013) to ensure the value of the final document for coastal and ocean resource science and governance. NCCOS encourages Federal and non-Federal Government partners, resource managers, other decision makers, stakeholders, and other interested parties to submit comments. We especially encourage comments related to the value of the plan to support an ecosystem approach to the management of coastal and ocean resources, and its collaborative implementation.

To facilitate efficient and thorough consideration of all submissions, please format your comments as follows: (1) Background information on yourself, including name, title, organizational affiliation, and contact information including email address; (2) general comments; and (3) specific comments with references to line numbers. Please follow all substantive, non-editorial comments with well-developed suggestions for revision. Please include identifying information at the top of all pages. The Draft NCCOS Human Dimensions Strategic Plan (FY2008–2013) is being issued for comment only and is not intended for interim use.

Dated: February 8, 2007.

**Gary C. Matlock,**

*Director, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science.*

[FR Doc. 07–690 Filed 2–14–07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.020907B]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 984–1814–01

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application for amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dr. Terrie Williams, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Center for Ocean Health - Long Marine Laboratory, University of California, 100 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 984–1814.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before March 19, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment 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 Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213; phone (562)980–4001; fax (562)980–4018.

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 amendment 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 e-mail comments is [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail