

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Tuesday, April 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 25, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday, April 26, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. Refer to the web page listed below for the most up-to-date meeting agenda.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the National Science Foundation, Room 555, 4121 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lauren Wenzel, Designated Federal Officer, MPA FAC, National Marine Protected Areas Center, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301-713-3100 x136, Fax: 301-713-3110); e-mail [lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov); or visit the National MPA Center Web site at <http://www.mpa.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee, composed of external, knowledgeable representatives of stakeholder groups, was established by the Department of Commerce (DOC) to provide advice to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior on implementation of Section 4 of Executive Order 13158 on MPAs. The meeting will be open to public participation with a one hour time period set aside from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, and one hour set aside from 8:10 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. on Thursday, April 26, 2007. In general, each individual or group will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Designated Federal Official by April 20, 2007.

*Matters to be Considered:* The Committee will work in Subcommittees and as a full Committee to develop recommendations for the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior on the regional coordination of the national system of marine protected areas; incentives and implementation; and natural and social science needed to support the national system. The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.mpa.gov>.

Dated: March 5, 2007.

**David M. Kennedy,**

*Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.*

[FR Doc. 07-1151 Filed 3-9-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-08-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, Ph.D., 1305 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, 1305 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/NCCOSDraftHDSstrategicPlan.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, organizations, 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 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 e-mail 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.

**Gary C. Matlock**

Director, National Center for Coastal Ocean Science.

[FR Doc. 07–1153 Filed 3–9–07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–JE–M**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 030607D]

**Marine Mammals; File No. 774–1714**

**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 the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) (Stephen B. Reilly, Ph.D., Principal Investigator), Protected Resources Division, 8604 La Jolla Shores Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 774–1714–05.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before April 11, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment (See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

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*. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 774–1714.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Amy Hapeman or Carrie Hubard, (301)713–2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject amendment to Permit No. 774–1714, issued on June 30, 2004 (68 FR 57673), is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222–226).

Permit No. 774–1714–05 authorizes the SWFSC to conduct research on seven pinniped species, 53 cetacean species, and five sea turtle species in the Pacific, Indian, Atlantic, Arctic and Southern Oceans. The permit authorizes Level B harassment during aerial and vessel surveys for photo-identification/photogrammetry, incidental harassment, collection of sloughed skin, and salvage of carcasses and parts; Level A harassment for capture, biopsy sampling, and tagging activities; and the import/export of specimens. The permit holder requests authorization to: (1) reorganize their take table to reflect annual takes instead of 5-year cumulative takes; (2) increase the number of animals harassed during aerial and vessel surveys, biopsy sampled, and/or tagged for several cetacean species; (3) collapse authorized takes of six cetacean stocks to the species level; (4) add Antarctic minke whales (*Balaenoptera bonaerensis*) to species that may be harassed during aerial and vessel surveys for photo-id and biopsy sampled; (5) add four new cetacean categories for animals that are observed but not identifiable during surveys; (6) add 14 cetacean species/stocks to those that may be harassed/sampled in the Southern Ocean; and (7) satellite tag up to 50 non-endangered killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) in Antarctic waters annually.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations:

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;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115–0700; phone (206)526–6150; fax (206)526–6426;

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668; phone (907)586–7221; fax (907)586–7249;

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

Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm 1110, Honolulu, HI