

information that is relevant to the identification of nations engaged in IUU activities and bycatch. Sources of information that NMFS may rely upon to make identifications include, but are not limited to:

- fishing vessel records;
- reports from off-loading facilities, port-side government officials, enforcement agents, military personnel, port inspectors, transshipment vessel workers and fish importers;
- government vessel registries;
- IUU vessel lists from RFMOs;
- RFMO catch documents and statistical document programs;
- appropriate catch or trade certification programs; and
- statistical data or incident reports from governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

NMFS will consider all available information, as appropriate, when making a determination whether or not to identify a particular nation in the biennial report to Congress. In its determinations as to whether information is appropriate for use in making identifications, NMFS will consider several criteria, including, but not limited to:

- whether the information can be corroborated;
- whether multiple sources have been able to provide information in support of an identification;
- the methodology used to collect the information;
- specificity of the information provided;
- susceptibility of the information to falsification and alteration; and
- credibility of the individual or organization providing the information.

In addition, NMFS poses the following questions: What sources of information should NMFS consider in identifying nations engaged in IUU fishing activities and bycatch of protected living marine resources? Would the above sources of information be useful to NMFS in making such identifications?

In order to process and verify all information in a timely manner, NMFS will not be able to consider any information submitted after the close of the information gathering period (see **DATES**).

Dated: March 17, 2008.

Rebecca Lent

*Director, Office of International Affairs,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E8-5786 Filed 3-20-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG38

International Whaling Commission; 60th Annual Meeting; Nominations

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

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: This notice is a call for nominees for the U.S. Delegation to the June 2008 International Whaling Commission (IWC) annual meeting. The non-federal representative(s) selected as a result of this nomination process is(are) responsible for providing input and recommendations to the U.S. IWC Commissioner representing the positions of non-governmental organizations. Generally, only one non-governmental position is selected for the U.S. Delegation.

DATES: The IWC is holding its 60th annual meeting from June 23-27, 2008, in Santiago, Chile. All written nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the IWC annual meeting must be received by April 18, 2008.

ADDRESSES: All nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the IWC annual meeting should be addressed to Bill Hogarth, U.S. Commissioner to the IWC, and sent via post to: Cheri McCarty, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of International Affairs, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3 Room 12603, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheri McCarty, 301-713-9090, ext. 183.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the domestic obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. The U.S. IWC Commissioner has responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. He is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and by other agencies. The non-federal representative(s) selected as a result of this nomination process is(are) responsible for providing input and recommendations to the U.S. IWC Commissioner representing the positions of non-governmental

organizations. Generally, only one non-governmental position is selected for the U.S. Delegation.

Dated: March 17, 2008.

Rebecca Lent,

*Director, Office of International Affairs,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG43

Marine Mammals; Photography Permit Application No. 10133

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Zvi Livnat, P.O. Box 1209, Kealahou, Hawaii 96750, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct commercial/educational photography of spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*).

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before April 21, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

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)713-0376; and Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808)944-2200; fax (808)973-2941.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed 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 request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)713-0376, 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. 10133.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Hapemen or Brandy Belmas, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The subject permit is requested under the authority of section 104(c)(6) 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). Section 104(c)(6) provides for photography for educational or commercial purposes involving non-endangered and non-threatened marine mammals in the wild. NMFS is currently working on proposed regulations to implement this provision. However, in the meantime, NMFS has received and is processing this request as a "pilot" application for Level B Harassment of non-listed and non-depleted marine mammals for photographic purposes.

The applicant has requested a photography permit to film human interactions with spinner dolphins in the coastal waters of Hawaii and Maui. The purpose of the filming is to produce a public service announcement to educate residents and tourists of the Hawaiian Islands about the dangers that swim-with programs pose to the species and illustrate proper dolphin watching techniques. Up to 2,710 dolphins could be harassed annually during aerial and vessel-based close approaches for filming, including underwater filming. Filming would occur from March to October of each year over a period of 4 years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

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.

Dated: March 17, 2008.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648-XG51

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held April 7, 2008 through April 11, 2008. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 4914 Constitution Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council

Thursday, April 10, 2008

1 p.m.—The Council meeting will begin with a review of the agenda and minutes.

1:15 p.m.–1:20 p.m.—The Council will approve the members of the Outreach and Education Committee.

1:20 p.m.–5:30 p.m.—The Council will receive public testimony on: (a) exempted fishing permits (EFPs), if any; (b) Final Action on Reef Fish Amendment 30B; and (c) Generic Aquaculture Amendment. An Open Public Comment Period regarding any fishery issue of concern will be immediately following completion of public testimony for a maximum of 1 hour. People wishing to speak before the Council should complete a public comment card prior to the comment period.

Friday, April 11, 2008

The Council will review and discuss reports from the previous three days' committee meetings as follows:

8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.—Reef Fish Management;

10:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m.—Ad Hoc Allocation;

10:45 a.m.–11 a.m.—Shrimp Management;

11 a.m.–11:30 a.m.—Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum;

11:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.—Habitat Protection;

11:45 a.m.–12 noon—Budget/Personnel;

12 noon–12:15 p.m.—AP Selection;

12:15 p.m.–12:30 p.m.—SSC Selection;

12:30 p.m.–12:45 p.m.—Operator Permits;

12:45 p.m.–1 p.m.—The Council will review regulations for Reef Fish Amendment 30B.

1 p.m.–1:30 p.m.—The Council will discuss Other Business item.

1:30 p.m.—The Council will conclude its meeting.

Committees

Monday, April 7, 2008—ALL CLOSED SESSIONS

1 p.m.–3 p.m.—CLOSED SESSION—Budget/Personnel Committee will interview and select a Staff Biologist. It will review the Executive Director's position description, rating sheet, and interview questions.

3 p.m.–4:30 p.m.—CLOSED SESSION—AP Selection Committee will review attendance and appoint new nominees to the AP.

4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.—CLOSED SESSION—SSC Selection Committee will review attendance and appoint new nominees to the SSC.

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

8 a.m.–12 noon & 1:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.—The Reef Fish Management Committee will meet to discuss Approval of Public Hearing Draft of Reef Fish Amendment 29; Final Action on Reef Fish Amendment 30B; and a Report of Ad Hoc Recreational Red Snapper AP Meeting.

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.—The Ad Hoc Allocation Committee will meet to discuss Organizational Issues.

10:30 a.m.–12 noon—The Operator Permits Committee will discuss an Operator Permits Options Paper.

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.—The Shrimp Management Committee will meet to discuss the Shrimp Vessel Effort; AP recommendations; and receive a Report on Electronic Logbooks for Shrimp Fishery.

3 p.m.–5:30 p.m.—The Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Management Committee will meet to discuss the Generic Aquaculture Amendment.

5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.—Informal Questions and Answer Session.

Thursday, April 10, 2008

8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.—The Habitat Protection Committee will discuss