SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS Pacific Islands Region, 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Honolulu, HI 96814 has been issued a permit to take green (Chelonia mydas), leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea), loggerhead (Caretta caretta), olive ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea), and hawksbill (Eretmorochelys imbricata) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kate Swails or Amy Hapeman, (301)713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 22, 2009, notice was published in the Federal Register (74 FR 23995) that a request for a scientific research permit had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

The researchers will collect scientific data on sea turtles incidentally captured in the Hawaii Deep-Set Longline Fishery, the Hawaii Shallow-Set Longline Fishery, and the American Samoa Longline Fishery. These data will assist NMFS efforts to understand sea turtle interactions with the fisheries and to mitigate their threat to these species. The applicant will flipper tag, measure, photograph, tissue sample, and attach satellite tags to an anticipated annual take of up to 46 loggerhead, 16 leatherback, 1 green, and 4 olive ridley sea turtles captured in the Hawaii Shallow-Set Longline Fishery; up to 6 loggerhead, 6 leatherback, 12 green, 12 olive ridley, and 6 hawksbill sea turtles captured in the American Samoa Longline Fishery; and up to 6 (18 over three years) loggerhead, 13 (39 over three years) leatherback, 7 (21 over three years) green, and 41 (123 over three years) olive ridley sea turtles captured in the Hawaii Deep-Set Longline Fishery. The research will occur in the Pacific Ocean through the permit’s expiration on March 1, 2015. No mortalities are expected from the research. Researchers would also collect sea turtle carcasses of animals killed in fishery activities that occur in the Pacific Ocean.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered or threatened species, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.


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–XU44
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a half day meeting of its Pelagics Plan Team (PPT) in Honolulu, HI to discuss fishery issues and develop recommendations for future management.

DATES: The meeting of the PPT will be held on March 4, 2010, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council Office Conference Room, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522–8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Pelagic Plan Team will be convened at the Council Office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96814 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Interested parties who are unable to attend in person will be able to participate via teleconference using the Council’s teleconferencing facility (1–888–482–3560, pass code 5222020). The PPT will meet on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at the Council Conference Room to discuss the following agenda items: