

Petition on Eastern North Pacific Gray Whales

On October 21, 2010, NMFS received a petition from the California Gray Whale Coalition to designate the Eastern North Pacific population of gray whales as depleted under the MMPA. The petition alleges that the causes of the decline include the following:

- (1) Over-harvesting;
- (2) Collapse of cow/calf numbers;
- (3) Predation by transient orcas;
- (4) Major changes in primary prey and habitat as a result of climate change; and
- (5) Reduction in available prey species resulting in starvation.

In accordance with the MMPA, NMFS announces the receipt of this petition, and its availability for public review (see **ADDRESSES** and Electronic Access). NMFS also solicits comments and information related to the statements in the petition and additional background on the status of the Eastern North Pacific population of gray whales.

Dated: November 4, 2010.

Thomas C. Eagle,

Acting Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-28282 Filed 11-8-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XA022

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Herring Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on November 30, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; *telephone:* (603) 431-2300; *fax:* (603) 433-5649.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New

England Fishery Management Council; *telephone:* (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

1. Continue development of alternatives for consideration in Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP), with particular focus on catch monitoring alternatives;
2. Discuss and develop elements of proposed portside sampling program (data priorities, sampling design, potential coverage levels, administration) and measures to confirm self-reported catch; develop Committee recommendations;
3. Discuss and further develop options for funding;
4. Address other outstanding issues related to Amendment 5 as time permits.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: November 4, 2010.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2010-28216 Filed 11-8-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XZ66

Marine Mammals; File No. 781-1824

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC, Dr. M. Bradley Hanson, Principal Investigator), 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, Washington 98112-2097, has applied for an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 781-1824-01.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before December 9, 2010.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 781-1824 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available 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) 713-0376; and Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by e-mail to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include File No. 781-1824 in the subject line of the e-mail comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan or Laura Morse, (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 781-1824-01 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. 781-1824-00 (issued on March 31, 2006; 74 FR 19875), as amended by Permit No. 781-1824-01