SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

On April 27, 2010 notice (80 FR 22119) was published that NMML requests a 5-year permit to conduct research on marine mammals in the Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic, and Southern Oceans to monitor cetaceans for scientific and management purposes. NMFS is in the midst of processing this request. Due to recent changes in narwhal distribution NMML now requests as part of this application to take narwhals during aerial and vessel surveys to document sightings in North Pacific and Arctic waters and monitor their status and trends. Up to 1,000 animals would be taken annually by each survey platform for observation, monitoring, counts, photo-identification and photogrammetry. During vessel surveys researchers would opportunistically collect sloughed skin, fecal samples, and carcass remains.

An environmental assessment is being prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) to examine whether significant environmental impacts could result from issuance of the proposed scientific research permit.

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

Dated: December 22, 2010.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2010–32847 Filed 12–28–10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA115

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will hold a work session, which is open to the public.

DATES: The HMSMT work session will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 and continue on Thursday, January 20, 2011, again beginning at 8:30 a.m. On both days the meeting will continue until business is completed.

ADDRESSES: The work sessions will be held at the Large Conference Room, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Offices, 6010 Hidden Valley Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92011; telephone: (760) 431–9440.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kit Dahl, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 820–2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HMSMT will discuss two topics. First, they will discuss characterization of fisheries catching North Pacific albacore tuna in preparation for developing potential management responses to a new stock assessment due to be completed in 2011. Second, the HMSMT will discuss potential improvements for categorizing and reporting landings data for west coast fisheries catching HMS. Informational topics, such as an update on Marine Recreational Information Program funded projects on the west coast, may also be discussed, time permitting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820–2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: December 22, 2010.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2010–32690 Filed 12–28–10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA117

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Council to convene a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a meeting of the Standing, Special Spiny Lobster and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committees.

DATES: The meeting will convene at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 and conclude by noon on Friday, January 21, 2011.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will meet to review several recently completed stock assessments and supplemental assessment analyses, and to recommend levels of acceptable biological catch. During the first day of the meeting, the Standing and Special Spiny Lobster Scientific and Statistical Committees will meet jointly to review a spiny lobster update assessment and make recommendations to the Council. The remainder of the meeting will be a joint meeting of the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee, which will begin upon completion of the spiny lobster portion of the meeting. The Committee will review draft terms of reference for a gray triggerfish update assessment and a vermilion snapper update assessment to be conducted in 2011. The Committee