

of the ESA of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1543) and regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR Parts 222–226). NMFS issues permits based on findings that such permits: (1) Are applied for in good faith; (2) if granted and exercised, would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. The authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits.

Anyone requesting a hearing on the application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (*see* ADDRESSES). Such hearings are held at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS.

Application Received

Permit 16344

Dr. Jerri Bartholomew, Oregon State University at Corvallis, is requesting a 5-year permit to annually take 580 juvenile SONCC coho salmon of hatchery origin associated with two research projects to study the effects of the myxozoan parasite *Ceratomyxa shasta* on salmon and steelhead in the Klamath River in Northern California. In the two projects described below, Dr. Bartholomew and her co-investigators will utilize fish obtained from the Iron Gate Hatchery in California, transport fish to the John L. Fryer Disease Laboratory in Oregon, and will euthanize all individuals at the end of the experiments.

Project 1 is a study to determine the annual incidence of disease in May and June in the Klamath River (Humboldt County), California, following a 3-day exposure of individuals at the Beaver Creek and Seiad Valley sentinel sites. The study will compare trends in *C. shasta* infection prevalence, fish mortality, and time to death of juvenile fish of hatchery origin among years. Annually, Dr. Bartholomew proposes to collect, transport, and euthanize 220 juvenile SONCC coho salmon of hatchery origin for this project. Data from this study will provide information to estimate annual exposure of both wild and hatchery SONCC coho salmon to, and subsequent disease effects from, *C. shasta* among years; and to inform potential management actions to reduce infection rates.

Project 2 is a laboratory study to test whether sequential exposure of fish to a less virulent (IIR) strain of *C. shasta*, followed by exposure to a more virulent (IIC) strain, lessens disease effects

(mortality, parasite production) within the juvenile SONCC coho salmon host. Annually, Dr. Bartholomew proposes to collect, transport, and euthanize 360 juvenile SONCC coho salmon of hatchery origin for this project. Data collected from these experiments will be used to inform potential disease management strategies for *C. shasta* in the Klamath River.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the applications meet the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations.

The final permit decision will not be made until after the end of the 30-day comment period. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 7, 2011.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2011–9014 Filed 4–13–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA363

Marine Mammals; File No. 14352

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Gregory Bossart, Georgia Aquarium, 225 Baker Street, NW., Atlanta, GA 30313 has been issued a major amendment to Permit No. 14352.

ADDRESSES: The permit amendment 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 Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701; phone (727) 824–5312; fax (727) 824–5309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Hubbard or Kristy Beard, (301) 713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 6, 2010, notice was published in the

Federal Register (75 FR 47537) that a request for an amendment to Permit No. 14352 to conduct research on bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit amendment has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The permit has been amended to authorize research in a new study area: Charleston, South Carolina. Fifty bottlenose dolphins may be captured, sampled, and released in Charleston annually. Captured dolphins will receive a health assessment clinical workup. All captured animals will receive a roto tag. Up to ten animals per year will also receive a VHF tag. Samples will be analyzed to examine a variety of health topics such as: infectious diseases, immune status, contaminant exposure, antibiotic resistance, and genetics. An additional 400 dolphins per year may be harassed during pre- and post-capture surveys. The amended permit is valid until October 31, 2014.

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

Dated: April 6, 2011.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2011–9019 Filed 4–13–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA365

Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene Public Hearings on: Amendment 18 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico; Joint

Amendment 10 to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Generic Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures Amendment for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Red Drum, Reef Fish, Shrimp, Coral and Coral Reefs, and Stony Crab Fishery Management Plans.

DATES: The public meetings will be held on May 2, 2011 through May 18, 2011 at fourteen locations throughout the Gulf of Mexico. The public hearings will begin at 6 p.m. and will conclude no later than 9 p.m. For specific dates, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The public meetings will be held at locations listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Deputy Executive Director/Senior Fishery Biologist, Dr. Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician and Dr. Carrie Simmons, Fishery Biologist; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold public hearings on Amendment 18 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Including Environmental Assessment, Regulatory Impact Review, and Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis. Amendment 18 contains alternatives for actions to set Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures if such limits are exceeded for Gulf group king mackerel, Gulf group Spanish mackerel, and Gulf group cobia. It also contains measures to remove cero, little tunny, dolphin, and bluefish from the fishery management plan, revise the framework procedure, and separate cobia into Atlantic and Gulf migratory groups. Similar measures are being proposed for the Atlantic migratory stocks.

Spiny Lobster

Public hearings will be held on Joint Amendment 10 to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. Joint Amendment 10 establishes Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for Caribbean spiny lobster as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This amendment includes additional actions addressing modifications to the

Fishery Management Unit, updates to protocol for Enhanced Cooperative Management, regulations regarding the possession of undersized lobsters or "shorts" as attractants for the commercial trap fishery, permit requirements for tailing spiny lobster, sector allocations, limiting spiny lobster fishing areas to protect threatened staghorn and elkhorn corals, and requirements for gear marking of all spiny lobster trap lines.

Reef Fish

Amendment 32—This amendment will establish annual catch limits and annual catch targets for 2012 to 2015 for gag and for 2012 for red grouper, and contains actions to establish a rebuilding plan for gag, set recreational bag limits, size limits and closed seasons for gag/red grouper in 2012, consider a commercial gag and shallow-water grouper quota adjustment to account for dead discards, make adjustment to multi-use IFQ shares in the grouper individual fishing quota program, reduce the commercial gag size limit, modify the offshore time and areas closures, and establish gag, red grouper, and shallow-water grouper accountability measures.

Generic Amendment

Public hearings will also be held to receive comments on the Generic Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures Amendment for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Red Drum, Reef Fish, Shrimp, Coral and Coral Reefs, and Stone Crab Fishery Management Plans. This amendment contains actions to delegate management of selected species to the other agencies, remove selected species from the fishery management plans, group species for purposes of setting annual catch limits and annual catch targets, establish and acceptable biological catch control rule, establish an annual catch limit/annual catch target control rule, establish a generic framework procedure for implementing management changes, establish the initial specification of annual catch limits and annual catch targets for stocks and stock groups still in need of such specification, establish the apportionment of the black grouper, yellow tail snapper, and mutton snapper stocks between the Gulf and South Atlantic Council jurisdictions, set a commercial and recreational allocation of black grouper within in the Gulf Council's jurisdiction, and establish accountability measures to keep catch levels within their annual catch limits or take corrective action if they exceed the limits.

The Public Hearings will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at the end of public testimony or no later than 9 p.m. at the following locations:

Monday, May 2, 2011

- ACL—Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Parkway, 950 Lake Carillon Drive, St. Petersburg, FL, telephone: (727) 540-0050;
- ACL—Clarion Hotel, 12635 South Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33907, telephone: (239) 936-4300;
- Mackerel—Best Western, 7921 Lamar Poole Road, Biloxi, MS 39532, telephone: (228) 875-7111;

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

- Amend 32—Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Parkway, 950 Lake Carillon Drive, St. Petersburg, FL, telephone: (727) 540-0050;
- Amend 32—Clarion Hotel, 12635 South Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33907, telephone: (239) 936-4300;
- Mackerel—Fairfield Inn & Suites, 3111 Loop Road, Orange Beach, FL 36561, telephone: (251) 543-4444;

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

- Amend 32—Banana Bay Resort, 4590 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050, telephone: (305) 743-3500;
- Mackerel—Boardwalk—Royal American Beach Getaways, 9400 S. Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach, FL 32408, telephone: (850) 230-4681;

Thursday, May 5, 2011

- ACL—Banana Bay Resort, 4590 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050, telephone: (305) 743-3500;

Monday, May 9, 2011

- Mackerel/Spiny Lobster, Sirata Beach Resort, 5300 Gulf Boulevard, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706, telephone: (727) 363-5176;
- ACL/Amend 32—Renaissance Riverview Plaza, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, AL 36602;
- ACL—Boardwalk—Royal American Beach Getaways, 9400 S. Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach, FL 32408, telephone: (850) 230-4681;

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

- Amend 32/ACL—Hilton, 5400 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77551, telephone: (409) 744-1757;
- Amend 32/ACL—Best Western, 7921 Lamar Poole Road, Biloxi, MS 39532, telephone: (228) 875-7111;
- Amend 32—Boardwalk—Royal American Beach Getaways, 9400 S. Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach, FL 32408, telephone: (850) 230-4681;

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

- Amend 32—Harte Research Institute, Conference Room, 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78412–5869, telephone: (361) 825–2000;

- Amend 32/ACL—Hilton Garden Inn, 4535 Williams Blvd., Kenner, LA 70065, telephone: (504) 712–0109;

Thursday, May 12, 2011

- ACL—Plantation Suites and Conference Center, 1909 Highway 361, Port Aransas, TX 78373, telephone: (361) 749–3866;

Monday, May 16, 2011

- Mackerel—Fisheries Research Lab, 195 Ludwig Annex, Grand Isle, LA 70358, telephone: (985) 787–2163;

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

- Mackerel—Hampton Inn, 506 West Bay Area Blvd., Webster, TX 77598, telephone: (281) 332–7952;

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

- Mackerel—Plantation Suites and Conference Center, 1909 Highway 361, Port Aransas, TX 78373, telephone: (361) 749–3866.

Copies of the documents can be obtained by calling (813) 348–1630.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: April 11, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2011–9055 Filed 4–13–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA366

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) will convene a Pacific mackerel Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel meeting that is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held Monday, May 2, 2011 through Thursday, May 5, 2011. Business will begin each day at 8:30 a.m. the first day, and at 8 a.m. each subsequent day. The meeting will conclude each day at 5 p.m. or until business for the day is completed. The meeting may conclude before 5 p.m. on Thursday if business has been completed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Green Room of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Fisheries Science Center; 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer; telephone: (503) 820–2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the meeting is to review the Pacific mackerel stock assessment for 2011, in order to inform fisheries management decisions for the 2011–12 fishery. Other issues relevant to Pacific mackerel management and science may be addressed as time permits.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the STAR Panel for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. STAR Panel action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed 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 STAR Panel'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 Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820–2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: April 11, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2011–9056 Filed 4–13–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 101014509–1211–02]

RIN 0648–XZ62

Policy for the Assessment of Civil Administrative Penalties and Permit Sanctions

AGENCY: Office of General Counsel (OGC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of issuance; final policy.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announces the publication and issuance of a final Policy for the Assessment of Civil Administrative Penalties and Permit Sanctions (Penalty Policy).

DATES: The final Penalty Policy was issued on March 16, 2011, and became effective on that date.

ADDRESSES: The final Penalty Policy is available electronically on NOAA's website at <http://www.gc.noaa.gov/enforce-office1.html>. A paper copy of the Penalty Policy may be requested by sending a self-addressed envelope (size 8.5 x 11 inches) to the individual under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank Sprtel by telephone at (301) 496–7147; by fax at (301) 427–2210; by e-mail at frank.sprtel@noaa.gov; or by mail at: Office of General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Penalty Policy is intended to provide guidance for the assessment of civil administrative penalties and permit sanctions under the statutes and regulations enforced by NOAA. As explained more fully in the text of the policy, the purpose of the Penalty Policy is to ensure that: (1) Civil administrative penalties and permit sanctions are assessed in accordance with the laws that NOAA enforces in a fair and consistent manner; (2) penalties and permit sanctions are appropriate for the gravity of the violation; (3) penalties and permit sanctions are sufficient to deter both individual violators and the regulated community as a whole from committing violations; (4) economic incentives for noncompliance are eliminated; and (5) compliance is expeditiously achieved and maintained to protect natural resources. Under this