

comments on the Small Mesh Multispecies Secretarial Amendment, an action that which will address the small mesh hake fishery and is scheduled to become effective on May 1, 2012. The Council also will be asked to approve final Draft Amendment 19 to Northeast Multispecies FMP for purposes of holding public hearings on the proposed alternatives. This will be followed by a discussion of progress to develop a range of alternatives for consideration in Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP. The Council also will consider adopting a committee recommendation to establish a control date for use in the development of future management measures including, but not limited to, catch shares and accumulation limits. There will be a briefing by NOAA Fisheries concerning its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and FMP amendment that would consider catch shares for the Atlantic shark fisheries. Council meeting adjournment will take place once the Enforcement Committee asks for Council input on recommendations concerning gear stowage and NOAA Enforcement's draft priorities document.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal action during this meeting. Council 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 Act, provided that 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.

Dated: January 10, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA930

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and its advisory committees.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings, January 30—February 7, 2012, at the Renaissance Hotel in Seattle, WA.

DATES: The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, February 1 continuing through Tuesday, February 7. Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, January 30 and continue through Friday, February 6. The Scientific Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, January 30 and continue through Wednesday, February 1. The Ecosystem Committee will meet January 31, 9 a.m. The Enforcement Committee will meet January 31 at 1 p.m. All meetings are open to the public, except executive sessions.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, 515 Madison Street, Seattle, WA.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Witherell, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified. Reports:

1. Executive Director's Report (including update on Halibut Catch Share Plan, review and approve Standard Operations and Procedures (SOPs)).
- NMFS Management Report (including update on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) process)
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game Report
- NOAA Enforcement Report
- United States Coast Guard Report
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service Report
- International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Report

Protected Species Report (Steller Sea Lion (SSL) Center of Independent Experts (CIE) Terms of Reference).

2. Final action to allow formation of a Community Quota Entity (CQE) in Area 4B.

3. Halibut Prohibited Species Catch (PSC): Initial review of Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment to set Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Halibut PSC.

4. Bering Sea Aleutian Island (BSAI) Crab Management: Update on Pribilof Blue King Crab Rebuilding Plan, action as necessary; BSAI Crab Model Workshop Report. (SSC only); Preliminary Review on BSAI Tanner Crab Rebuilding Plan; Report on BSAI Crab Right of First Refusal (ROFR) Workgroup, action as necessary (T); Final action on BSAI Crab Electronic Data Reporting (EDR) Revisions.

5. Habitat Issues; Initial review of GOA Trawl Sweep modifications; Initial review Habitat Area Particular Concern (HAPC)—Skate egg deposition sites; Updated discussion paper on Bristol Bay Red King Crab spawning area/fishery effects(T); Report on 2012-2015 Deep Sea Coral Research

6. Groundfish Issues/Miscellaneous; Discussion paper on GOA Chinook Bycatch in all trawl fisheries; Discussion paper on GOA Pollock D-season; Discussion paper on American Fisheries Act (AFA) Vessel Replacement GOA Sideboards; Discussion paper on BSAI Flatfish specification flexibility.

7. Staff Tasking; Review Committees and tasking; discuss schedule for Groundfish Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSEIS); Review Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQs) proposals and provide direction.

8. Other Business

The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

1. Crab Management
2. Habitat Issues
3. Halibut PSC
4. SSC workshop—Stock Recruitment

The Advisory Panel will address most of the same agenda issues as the Council, except C-1, and B reports. The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/>

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 these meetings. 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 Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 10, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-534 Filed 1-12-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA932

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a public meeting in the form of a workshop. The workshop topic is volunteer angler data collection.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Four Points Sheraton BWI Airport, 7032 Elm Road, Baltimore, MD 21240; telephone: (410) 859-3300.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 526-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The workshop will include briefings on established volunteer data collection programs, statistical consultant presentations, and discussions of various options for volunteer angler data collections and their uses. This workshop is a product of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP—<http://>

www.countmyfish.noaa.gov) and was organized by the Council in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Workshop outcomes may include recommendations, limitations, uses, and best practices that could inform state efforts and/or feed into a pilot project proposal to be submitted to the Marine Recreational Information Program for funding in 2013. The workshop will be available via GoToMeeting and registration can be made at the following link: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/409337168>. A public comment period will take comments from those at the meeting and also via webinar if feasible.

Special Accommodations:

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to M. Jan Saunders at the Mid-Atlantic Council Office, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 10, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XT82

Marine Mammals; File No. 14676

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 a major amendment to Permit No. 14676 has been issued to Paul Ponganis, Ph.D., University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA for research on California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*).

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

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376; and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562) 980-4018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams or Amy Sloan, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 7, 2011, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 68719) that a request for an amendment Permit No. 14676 to conduct research on California sea lions 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 amendment includes authorization for capture of up to 30 animals over two field seasons and an additional procedure, deployment of a heart rate/stroke rate recorder on half of the animals. The amendment is valid through the original permit expiration date, February 1, 2015.

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: January 9, 2012.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-502 Filed 1-12-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA627

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals: Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Navy Training Exercises in Three East Coast Range Complexes

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of three modified Letters of Authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that NMFS has made modifications to three Letters of Authorization (LOAs) to take marine mammals by harassment incidental to