

East-West Highway, SSMC3 Room 10876.2, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melissa Andersen at Melissa.Andersen@noaa.gov or 301-427-8385.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the domestic obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. The U.S. IWC Commissioner has responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. The U.S. IWC Commissioner is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and by other agencies. The non-federal representative(s) selected as a result of this nomination process is(are) responsible for providing input and recommendations to the U.S. IWC Commissioner representing the positions of non-governmental organizations. Generally, only one non-governmental position is selected for the U.S. Delegation.

Dated: March 28, 2012.

Rebecca Lent,

Director, Office of International Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-7852 Filed 3-30-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB128

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is hosting the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting on Tuesday May 1, 2012 through Thursday May 3, 2012, in Hawaii. The purpose of the meeting is to enable NMFS and NOAA officials and others to exchange information with the Regional Fishery Council Chairs and Executive Directors.

DATES: The CCC general meeting session will be held on May 1, 2012, from

1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., May 2, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on May 3, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

ADDRESSES: The CCC meeting will be held at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel Ballroom, 68-1400 Mauna Lani Drive, Big Island, HI 96743; telephone: (808) 885-6622.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; Council office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda for the CCC general session meeting will include the items listed here. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The CCC will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Schedule and Agenda for the CCC Meeting

1:30 p.m.– 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, 2012

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Opening Remarks.
3. Remarks from the Governor.
4. Council Reports on Status of Implementing Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Provisions and Other Current Activities of Interest.

8 a.m.–4 p.m., Wednesday, May 2, 2012

5. Panel Presentation and Discussion on Endangered Species Act Jeopardy Determination in Fisheries Management—Past, Present and Future.
6. Panel Discussion.
7. Litigation.
 - a. Regional Fishery Management Council Counsel Representation.
 - b. Update on Lawsuits.
8. Stock Assessments.
 - a. Next Generation Stock Assessments and Priorities.
 - b. Fisheries and the Environment (FATE).
 - c. Advanced Technology.
 - d. National Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) IV Recommendations.
 - e. Use (or lack thereof) of Best Available Science.
 - f. Allocating Resources to Support Assessments.

9. Bycatch, Cooperative Research, Habitat, 5-year Council Research Plan—Funding Opportunities for These Programs.

10. Report on the Success of MPAs for Fisheries.

11. President Obama's Executive Order on Improving Regulations and Regulatory Review (E.O. 13563).

8 a.m.–6 p.m., Thursday, May 3, 2012

12. Report on Legislation.

13. Administration's Activities on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning and the National Ocean Council.

14. Marginalization of Fisheries Through Competing Acts/Authorities.

15. Communities and Indigenous Issues.

16. International Fisheries Management.

a. Leveling the Playing Field for Domestic Fisheries.

b. Increasing Domestic Production to Reduce Trade Deficits.

c. Bilateral Agreements (Mexico, Canada, Others).

17. Budgets.

a. FY2012 Status of Council Funding.

b. FY2013 Update.

18. Communications.

a. NOAA Fisheries Activities.

b. Regional Fishery Management Council Coordination Committee Recommendations.

c. Managing Our Nations Fisheries

3.

19. Program Review.

a. Department of Commerce Inspector General Review of NOAA Fisheries and Fishery Management Councils in Fishery Rule Making Process and Transparency of Rule Making Process under MSA.

b. Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Visioning Project.

20. Administrative Matters.

a. Freedom of Information Act Requests.

b. Technology—Virtual Public Hearings/Scoping versus Travel.

c. Professional Liability.

d. Other Business and Next Annual CCC Meeting.

21. Adjourn Meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions 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 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 Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220

(voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: March 28, 2012.

William D. Chappell,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-7858 Filed 3-30-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA599

Marine Mammals; File No. 16094

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 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, AK, has applied for an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 16094.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before May 2, 2012.

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. 16094 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available 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 Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249.

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

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation 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: Tammy Adams or Joselyd Garcia-Reyes, (301)427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 16094 is requested 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).

Permit No. 16094, issued on September 20, 2011 (76 FR 61345), authorizes the permit holder to take harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) during aerial surveys for population census and radio tracking; ground surveys for photo-identification, counts and behavioral observations; vessel approaches of animals equipped with telemetry equipment; vessel surveys for radio tracking; and capture by entanglement in a net in the water or by hoop net or dip net on land. Captured animals will: be restrained (chemical or physical); be weighed and measured; have biological samples collected (blood, milk (lactating females), blubber, skin, muscle, hair, mucus membrane swabs, stomach lavage, tooth and vibrissae); be administered deuterated water; have measurement of blubber via ultrasound; be marked with flipper identification tags; and have internal (PIT tags) or external scientific instruments attached. Tissue samples will be collected from subsistence harvested animals and other mortalities and some samples will be exported to Canada for analysis. The permit also includes incidental harassment and accidental mortality of harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) during seal capture activities. The permit is valid through December 31, 2016.

The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to include authorization for takes related to a whisker growth and replacement study aimed at improving utility of dietary stable isotope information derived from whiskers. The amendment would increase the number of whiskers that may be collected from seals captured during field work from 1 per animal to 2 per animal, and add photogrammetry for these seals. There would be no increase in the numbers of seals captured or sampled in the wild. The amendment would also add a non-invasive study using captive seals held at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, AK. For that study, researchers would use hair dye to mark the seals' whiskers and photo document whisker growth over time.

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

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

Dated: March 27, 2012.

Tammy C. Adams,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-7847 Filed 3-30-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB144

[Endangered Species; File No. 13330]

Receipt of Application for a Permit Modification

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for a permit modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS Southeast Fisheries Center (SEFSC) (hereinafter "Permit Holder"); 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149 [Responsible Party: Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.], has requested a modification to scientific research Permit No. 13330-01.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before May 2, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The modification request 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 (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov/>, and then selecting File No. 13330 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available 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;