

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

RIN 0648-XA847

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Exempted Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). If granted, the EFP would authorize the applicant to collect and retain red snapper that would otherwise be prohibited from possession and retention. This study, to be conducted in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf), is intended to better document the age structure and life history of fish associated with offshore platforms and artificial reefs in Louisiana coastal waters.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., eastern time, on June 22, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the application by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* 0648-
XA847.LDWF@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the email comment the following document identifier: ALDWF_EFP@.

• *Mail:* Steve Branstetter, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

The application and related documents are available for review upon written request to any of the above addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Branstetter, 727-824-5305; email: Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EFP is requested under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b) concerning exempted fishing.

The described research is part of a new research program by LDWF. The research is intended to involve recreational fishermen in the collection of fundamental biological information of Gulf red snapper. The proposed

collection for scientific research involves activities that could otherwise be prohibited by regulations at 50 CFR part 622, as they pertain to reef fish managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council). The applicant requires authorization through the EFP to collect these Council-managed species that may be taken as part of the normal fishing activities of the recreational sector of the Gulf reef fish fishery. LDWF has requested an EFP from July through October 2012, to monitor red snapper caught during recreational fishing tournaments held in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida subsequent to the closure of the 2012 recreational red snapper season. LDWF is requesting that selected participants, in as many as seven recreational fishing tournaments, be allowed to retain and tag the first red snapper caught during a fishing trip. Participants would also complete and submit a data sheet regarding other red snapper caught and released during the fishing trip. Fish collected under this EFP would be surrendered to LDWF personnel or other state fishery biologists, and sampled for length, weight, otoliths, and gonads. LDWF would be responsible for providing all data collected under the EFP to NMFS for use in the next stock assessment. The intent is to better document the age structure and life history of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. If approved, the EFP would authorize the take of approximately 1,600 red snapper during the five-month period. Such fish collected as biological samples would not be subject to seasonal closures or size limits.

NMFS finds this application warrants further consideration. Possible conditions the agency may impose on this permit, if it is indeed granted, include but are not limited to, a prohibition of conducting research within marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, or special management zones, without additional authorization. A report on the research would be due at the end of the collection period, to be submitted to NMFS and reviewed by the Council.

A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NMFS's review of public comments received on the application, consultations with the affected states, the Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as a determination that it is consistent with all applicable laws.

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

Dated: May 17, 2012.

Carrie Selberg,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-12516 Filed 5-22-12; 8:45 am]

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

RIN 0648-XC038

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

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Committee and Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Advisory Panel will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 8, 2012 from 9 a.m. until noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via webinar with a physical listening station also available at the Council office, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331. The webinar registration link is: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/126160849>.

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 primary purposes of the meeting are to review the alternatives for Amendment 14 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan, review public comments received, and get input from the Advisory Panel. Public comment will be taken, but there is a written comment opportunity available through June 4 (http://www.mafmc.org/fmp/msb_files/msbAm14current.htm) and there will be an additional opportunity for public comment at the June Council meeting (agenda will be posted at www.mafmc.org).

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 this meeting. 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

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: May 18, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-12496 Filed 5-22-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB033

Marine Mammals; File No. 16991

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to James T. Harvey, Ph.D., Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, 8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, California 95039 to conduct research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*).

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joselyd Garcia-Reyes or Amy Sloan, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 28, 2012, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 12009) that a request for a permit to conduct research on harbor seals had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit 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 authorizes harassment and capture of harbor seals in California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. Harassment is authorized during ground and vessel surveys, and playback experiments. Animals captured will have some or all of the following procedures done: mass, morphometrics, and sex determined; blubber depth and biopsy; lavage/enema; flipper and PIT tagged; blood, swabs, skin and hair sampled; and attachment of external instruments and surgical implantation of radio tags. California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) and northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) may be harassed during activities conducted under this permit. Harbor seal mortalities are authorized incidental to research. The permit expires on May 30, 2017.

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.

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations:

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;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426;

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249; and Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562) 980-4018.

Dated: May 17, 2012.

Tammy C. Adams,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-12514 Filed 5-22-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Open Meeting To Obtain Input for 2013 DoD 10 Key State Issues Impacting Service Members and Their Families

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The public is invited to attend an open session to consider issues

impacting Service members and their families that can best be resolved by state governments. Additionally, the public is invited to submit issues in writing to the Department of Defense in lieu of attending the open session.

DATES: Open session meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., June 5, 2012. RSVPs for individuals who are not military or civilian personnel in the Department of Defense must be received by close of business, June 1, 2012. Individuals who have submitted an RSVP must be present at the Pentagon Visitors' Reception Area not later than 12:30 p.m., June 5, 2012. Written submissions must be received by close of business June 8, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Submit RSVPs and written responses to either marcus.beauregard@osd.mil or 4000 Defense Pentagon Room 5A726, Washington, DC 20301-2400. The Pentagon Visitors' Reception Area is accessible by way of the Pentagon Metro Station entrance. The open session meeting will be held in the Pentagon Conference Center, Room M-2.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marcus Beauregard, 571-372-5357.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Each year, DoD selects 10 issues for states to consider that represent barriers resulting from the transience and uncertainty of military life. For example, DoD has asked states to consider remedies to improve school transition for children in active duty military families to overcome problems with records transfer, class and course placement, qualifying for extra-curricular activities, and fulfilling graduation requirements.

The RSVP must include the following information: Name, date of birth and Social Security Number. RSVPs submitted by email must be encrypted.

Individuals attending the meeting who do not have a Pentagon ID must first proceed through the Guard Station (plan approximately an additional 10 minutes to access the reception area). Individuals must have two forms of personal identification, one of which must be provided by the Government and have a photograph (such as military ID, driver's license or passport).

Written inputs should include the following information:

A. Issue title.
B. Description of the issue to include a description of the policy or practice, the impact and who is impacted by this issue.

C. Description of the potential solution to this issue, to include whether the issue can be corrected through a change in state procedures, state regulations or state statute.