

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 the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: January 11, 2017.

Julia Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2017-00802 Filed 1-13-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF117

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings and Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of opportunities to submit public comments.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) has announced its annual preseason management process for the 2017 ocean salmon fisheries. This notice informs the public of opportunities to provide comments on the 2017 ocean salmon management measures.

DATES: Written comments on the salmon management alternatives adopted by the Pacific Council at its March 2017 meeting, and described in Preseason Report II, received electronically or in hard copy by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, March 31, 2017, will be considered in the Pacific Council's final recommendation for the 2017 management measures.

ADDRESSES: Documents will be available from Mr. Herb Pollard, Chair, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384, and posted on the Pacific Council Web site at <http://www.pcouncil.org>. You may submit comments, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2016-0160, by any one of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/>

#/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2016-0160, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Mr. Herb Pollard, Chair, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

- **Fax:** 503-820-2299, Attn: Ms. Robin Ehlke.

- Comments can also be submitted via email to PFMC.comments@noaa.gov.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual may not be considered by NMFS or the Pacific Council. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS and the Pacific Council will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Robin Ehlke, Pacific Council, telephone: 503-820-2280. For information on submitting comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking portal, contact Peggy Mundy, NMFS West Coast Region, telephone: 206-526-4323; email: peggy.mundy@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Pacific Council has published its annual notice of availability of reports, public meetings, and hearings for the 2017 ocean salmon fisheries (81 FR 95568, December 28, 2016). The Pacific Council will adopt alternatives for 2017 ocean salmon fisheries at its meeting, March 7-14, 2017, at the Hilton in Vancouver, WA. Details of this meeting are available on the Pacific Council's Web site (<http://www.pcouncil.org>) and will be published in the **Federal Register** in February 2017. On March 22, 2017, "Preseason Report II—Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment Part 2 for 2017 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations" is scheduled to be posted on the Pacific Council Web site at <http://www.pcouncil.org>. The report will include a description of the salmon management alternatives and a summary of their biological and economic impacts. Public hearings will be held to receive comments on the proposed ocean salmon fishery management alternatives adopted by the Pacific Council. Written comments received at the public hearings and a

summary of oral comments at the hearings will be provided to the Pacific Council at its April meeting.

All public hearings begin at 7 p.m. at the following locations:

- March 27, 2017: Chateau Westport, Beach Room, 710 West Hancock, Westport, WA 98595, telephone 360-268-9101.

- March 27, 2017: Red Lion Hotel, South Umpqua Room, 1313 North Bayshore Drive, Coos Bay, OR 97420, telephone 541-267-4141.

- March 28, 2017: City of Fort Bragg, Town Hall, 363 North Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437, telephone: (707) 961-2823.

Comments on the alternatives the Pacific Council adopts at its March 2017 meeting, and described in Preseason Report II, may be submitted in writing or electronically as described under **ADDRESSES**, or verbally or in writing at any of the public hearings held on March 27-28, 2017, or at the Pacific Council's meeting, April 6-12, 2017, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, in Sacramento, CA. Details of these meetings will be available on the Pacific Council's Web site (<http://www.pcouncil.org>) and will be published in the **Federal Register**. Written and electronically submitted comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, March 31, 2017, in order to be included in the briefing book for the April Council meeting where they will be considered in the adoption of the Pacific Council's final recommendation for the 2017 salmon fishery management measures. All comments received accordingly will be reviewed and considered by the Pacific Council and NMFS.

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

Dated: January 10, 2017.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2017-00801 Filed 1-13-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Atlantic Sea Scallops Amendment 10 Data Collection

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 20, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at Jjessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Shannah Jaburek, (978) 282-8456 or Shannah.Jaburek@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Greater Atlantic Region manages the Atlantic sea scallop (scallop) fishery of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the East Coast under the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The regulations implementing the FMP are at 50 CFR part 648. To successfully implement and administer components of the FMP, OMB Control No. 0648-0491 includes the following information collections for scallop vessel owners, operators, and fishery participants: Vessel monitoring system (VMS) trip declarations for all scallop vessels, including powerdown declarations; notification of access area trip termination for limited access scallop vessels; submission of access area compensation trip identification; submission of access area trip exchange forms; VMS purchase and installation for individuals that purchase a federally permitted scallop vessel; VMS daily catch reports; submission of ownership cap forms for individual fishing quota (IFQ) scallop vessels; submission of vessel replacement, upgrade and permit history applications for IFQ, Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM), and Incidental Catch (IC) scallop vessels; submission of VMS pre-landing notification form by IFQ vessels and limited access vessels for access areas; enrollment into the state waters exemption program; submission of requests for IFQ transfers; payment of cost recovery bills for IFQ

vessels; sector proposals for IFQ vessels and industry participants; and sector operations plans for approved sector proposals.

Data collected through these programs are incorporated into the NMFS database and are used to track and confirm vessel permit status and eligibility, scallop landings, and scallop vessel allocations. Aggregated summaries of the collected information will be used to evaluate the management program and future management proposals.

II. Method of Collection

Participants will submit electronic VMS transmissions and paper applications by mail, facsimile, or email.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0491.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a currently approved collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profits organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 647.

Estimated Time per Response: VMS trip declaration, trip termination, compensation trip identification, powerdown provision, daily catch reports, 2 minutes; access area trip exchange, 15 minutes; VMS purchase and installation, 2 hours; IFQ ownership cap forms, 5 minutes; vessel replacement, upgrade and permit history applications, 3 hours; VMS pre-landing notification form, 5 minutes; VMS state waters exemption program, 2 minutes; quota transfers, 10 minutes; cost recovery, 2 hours; sector proposals, 150 hours; sector operations plans, 100 hours; IFQ, Northern Gulf of Maine, and incidental catch vessel VMS requirements, 2 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,460.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$790,283.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the

use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 11, 2017.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-00816 Filed 1-13-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF154

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 19703 and 20993

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Fred Sharpe, Ph.D., Alaska Whale Foundation, 4739 University Way NE., #1230, Seattle, WA 98105 (File No. 19703) has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on cetaceans and Christopher Cilfone, Be Blue, 2569 Douglas Hwy. Unit 1, Juneau, AK 99801 (File No. 20993) has applied in due form to conduct commercial/educational photography on humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before February 16, 2017.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents for File No. 19703 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. 19703 from the list of available applications.

Documents for File No. 19703 and 20993 are also available upon written request or by appointment in the 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.

Written comments on these applications should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above.