[2] Best abundance estimate. For most taxa, the best abundance estimate for purposes of comparison with take estimates is considered here to be the model-predicted abundance (Roberts *et al.,* 2016). For those taxa where a density surface model predicting abundance by month was produced, the maximum mean seasonal abundance was used. For those taxa where abundance is not predicted by month, only mean annual abundance is available. For the killer whale, the larger estimated SAR abundance estimate is used.

[3] Includes 24 takes by Level A harassment and 423 takes by Level B harassment. Scalar ratio is applied to takes by Level B harassment only; small numbers determination made on basis of scaled Level B harassment take plus authorized Level A harassment take.

TABLE 2—TAKE ANALYSIS, EUROPA LOA

Species	Authorized take	Scaled take [1]	Abundance [2]	% abundance
Rice's whale	0	n/a	51	n/a
Sperm whale	526	222.5	2,207	10.1
Kogia spp	[3] 199	71.0	4,373	1.6
Beaked whales	2,322	234.5	3,768	6.2
Rough-toothed dolphin	399	114.6	4,853	2.4
Bottlenose dolphin	1,892	542.9	176,108	0.3
Clymene dolphin	1,123	322.4	11,895	2.7
Atlantic spotted dolphin	756	216.9	74,785	0.3
Pantropical spotted dolphin	5,098	1,463.1	102,361	1.4
Spinner dolphin	1,366	392.0	25,114	1.6
Striped dolphin	439	125.9	5,229	2.4
Fraser's dolphin	126	36.2	1,665	2.2
Risso's dolphin	330	97.4	3,764	2.6
Melon-headed whale	738	217.7	7,003	3.1
Pygmy killer whale	174	51.2	2,126	2.4
False killer whale	276	81.5	3,204	2.5
Killer whale	0	n/a	267	n/a
Short-finned pilot whale	213	63.0	1,981	3.2

[1] Scalar ratios were applied to "Authorized Take" values as described at 86 FR 5322, 5404 (January 19, 2021) to derive scaled take numbers shown here.

[2] Best abundance estimate. For most taxa, the best abundance estimate for purposes of comparison with take estimates is considered here to be the model-predicted abundance (Roberts *et al.,* 2016). For those taxa where a density surface model predicting abundance by month was produced, the maximum mean seasonal abundance was used. For those taxa where abundance is not predicted by month, only mean annual abundance is available. For the killer whale, the larger estimated SAR abundance estimate is used.

[3] Includes 11 takes by Level A harassment and 188 takes by Level B harassment. Scalar ratio is applied to takes by Level B harassment only; small numbers determination made on basis of scaled Level B harassment take plus authorized Level A harassment take.

[5] Modeled take of 16 increased to account for potential encounter with group of average size (Maze-Foley and Mullin, 2006).

Based on the analysis contained herein of Shell's proposed survey activity described in its LOA applications and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the affected species or stock sizes and therefore is of no more than small numbers.

Authorization

NMFS has determined that the level of taking for these LOA requests is consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under the incidental take regulations and that the amount of take authorized under the LOAs is of no more than small numbers. Accordingly, we have issued two LOAs to Shell authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to its geophysical survey activity, as described above.

Dated: December 3, 2021.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–26601 Filed 12–7–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XB622]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) will host an online meeting of the Area 2A Pacific halibut governmental management entities that is open to the public.

DATES: The online meeting will be held Tuesday, January 4, 2022, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Pacific Time, or until business for the day has been completed.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held online. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see *www.pcouncil.org*). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (*kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov*) or contact him at (503) 820–2412 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Robin Ehlke, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2410.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the online meeting is to prepare and develop recommendations for the 2022 International Pacific Halibut Commission's (IPHC) annual meeting held online from January 24 through January 28, 2022. Recommendations generated from the 2A managers meeting will be communicated to the IPHC by the Pacific Council's representatives. Attendees may also address other topics relating to Pacific halibut management.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this

document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (*kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov;* (503) 820–2412) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: December 3, 2021.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2021–26569 Filed 12–7–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XB556]

Taking of Threatened or Endangered Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Issuance of Permit

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is issuing a permit for a period of 3 years to authorize the incidental, but not intentional, take of specific Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed marine mammal species or stocks under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), in the WA/OR/CA sablefish pot fishery.

DATES: The permit is effective for a 3-year period beginning December 8, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Reference materials for the permit including the final negligible impact determination are available on the internet at *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/negligible-impact-determination-and-mmpa-section-101a5e-authorization-wa-or-ca-sablefish-pot* or *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NMFS-2021-0092.* Other supporting information is available on the internet including: Recovery plans for the ESA-listed marine mammal species, *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/recovery-species-under-endangered-species-act;* 2021 MMPA List of Fisheries (LOF), *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/list-fisheries-summary-tables;* the most recent Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Reports (SAR) by region, *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-stock-assessment-reports-region,* and stock, *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-stock-assessment-reports-species-stock;* and Take Reduction Teams and Plans, *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-take-reduction-plans-and-teams.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tina Fahy, NMFS West Coast Region, (562) 980–4023, *Christina.Fahy@noaa.gov;* or Jaclyn Taylor, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, (301) 427–8402, *Jaclyn.Taylor@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMPA requires NMFS to authorize the incidental take of ESA-listed marine mammals in commercial fisheries provided it can make the following determinations: (1) The incidental mortality and serious injury (M/SI) from commercial fisheries will have a negligible impact on the affected species or stocks; (2) a recovery plan for all affected species or stocks of threatened or endangered marine mammals has been developed or is being developed; and (3) where required under MMPA section 118, a take reduction plan has been developed or is being developed, a monitoring program is implemented, and vessels participating in the fishery are registered. NMFS has determined that the WA/OR/CA sablefish pot fishery meets these three requirements and is issuing a permit to the fishery to authorize the incidental take of ESA-listed marine mammal species or stocks under the MMPA for a period of 3 years.

Background

The MMPA LOF classifies each commercial fishery as a Category I, II, or III fishery based on the level of mortality and injury of marine mammals occurring incidental to each fishery as defined in 50 CFR 229.2. Category I and II fisheries must register with NMFS and are subsequently authorized to incidentally take marine mammals during commercial fishing operations. However, that authorization is limited to those marine mammals that are not listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. Section 101(a)(5)(E) of the MMPA, 16 U.S.C. 1371, states that NMFS, as delegated by the Secretary of Commerce, for a period of up to three years shall allow the incidental, but not intentional, taking of marine mammal stocks designated as depleted because of their listing as an endangered species or threatened species under the ESA, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.,* by persons using vessels of the United States and those vessels which have valid fishing permits issued by the Secretary in accordance with section 204(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1824(b), while engaging in commercial fishing operations, if NMFS makes certain determinations. NMFS must determine, after notice and opportunity for public comment, that: (1) Incidental M/SI from commercial fisheries will have a negligible impact on the affected species or stock; (2) a recovery plan has been developed or is being developed for such species or stock under the ESA; and (3) where required under section 118 of the MMPA, a monitoring program has been established, vessels engaged in such fisheries are registered in accordance with section 118 of the MMPA, and a take reduction plan has been developed or is being developed for such species or stock.

The LOF includes a list of marine mammal species or stocks incidentally killed or injured in each commercial fishery. The WA/OR/CA sablefish pot fishery is classified as a Category II fishery on the final 2021 LOF (86 FR 3028; January 14, 2021) based on occasional incidental M/SI of the CA/OR/WA stock of humpback whales. We evaluated ESA-listed stocks or species included on the 2021 MMPA LOF as killed or seriously injured following NMFS' Procedural Directive 02–238 ''Process for Distinguishing Serious from Non-Serious Injury of Marine Mammals.'' Based on this evaluation, NMFS proposed to issue a permit under MMPA section 101(a)(5)(E) to vessels registered in the Category II WA/OR/CA sablefish pot fishery, as classified on the final 2021 MMPA LOF, to incidentally kill or seriously injure the CA/OR/WA stock of humpback whale (86 FR 58641; October 22, 2021).

NMFS will regularly evaluate other commercial fisheries for purposes of making a negligible impact determination (NID) and issuing MMPA section 101(a)(5)(E) authorizations with the annual LOF as new information becomes available. More information about the WA/OR/CA sablefish pot fishery is available in the 2021 MMPA LOF (86 FR 3028; January 14, 2021) and