comment the following document identifier: ''Comments on UNH Haddock Trap (DA6–210).'' Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope ''Comments on UNH Haddock Trap (DA6–210).'' Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281–9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Moira Kelly, Fishery Management Specialist, phone: 978–281–9218, fax: 978–281–9135.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A complete application for an EFP was submitted on July 7, 2006, by Dr. Ken La Valley of UNH. The research is intended to lead to the development of a viable alternative to traditional fishing gear for landing Atlantic haddock of a size and condition for use in the live fish market. This project is funded by the Northeast Consortium. The original EFP was issued on September 18, 2006. Due to circumstances beyond the control of the researchers, the research was unable to be completed during the exempted time period (September through November 2006). On November 14, 2006, Dr. La Valley requested extending the EFP from March through August 2007. However, the change in time-frame requires an additional exemption from the GOM Rolling Closure Areas III and IV and is, therefore, not eligible for an extension. A new EFP is necessary for UNH to complete this research.

On July 7, 2006, UNH requested an exemption from the DAS requirements and, on November 14, 2006, UNH requested an exemption from the GOM Rolling Closure Areas III and IV in order to test the effectiveness of two demersal fish trap designs, i.e., Pacific and Norwegian cod pots, modified for catching large Atlantic haddock for use in the live fish market. A DAS exemption is requested to allow the fishing vessel to economically assist in this research. No fish would be retained or landed. The research would take place in the 30 minute squares, included in the Rolling Closure Areas III and IV, that correspond to areas 137, 138, 145, and 146, and specifically the project area would be bounded by the lines extending from 43°38′ N. lat., 69°40′ W. long. (NW corner), eastwards to 43°38′ N. lat.; 69°21′ W. long. (NE corner), south to 43°20′ N. lat.; 69°21′ W. long. (SE corner), and westward to 43°20′ N. lat.; 69°40′ W. long. (SW corner). An exemption from the GOM Rolling Closure Areas III and IV is necessary to provide continuity with the portion of the research conducted under the previously issued EFP. This area was originally chosen because the researcher believes that an optimal mix of high abundance of haddock and low abundance of cod in this area will allow him to accurately assess the selectivity of the gear.

The Norwegian two-chamber fish pot design has two fairly wide entrance funnels leading into the lower chamber, with a narrow entrance leading to an upper chamber. For this experiment, this fish trap would be modified to use vertical mounted triggers in order to allow easy entrance for fish and would provide a larger internal volume compared to the Norwegian design. The Pacific cod pot is a 6–ft x 6–ft x 3–ft (1.83–m x 1.83–m x 0.91–m) design that has triggers on three sides of the pot to allow increased opportunities to enter the trap, with shallow leads leading to the tunnel eye. The Pacific trap design would be modified such that it would be collapsible and would incorporate vertical mounted triggers, instead of horizontal triggers typically used for cod.

In addition, haddock specific baits would be tested during the project and, an underwater video camera would be used to document haddock behavior in and around each trap design. The camera would be deployed on a trap, containing haddock from an onboard auxiliary group, a significant distance from the test site, so as not to influence fish behavior due to the lights.

A total of 12 traps were to be deployed, and 10–14 hauls were to be made, with an average soak time of 24 hr, over 10 days. Under the EFP issued on September 18, 2006, only 5 days of research were completed. The remaining 5 days would be conducted under this EFP.

The researchers intend to target haddock, but anticipate some incidental catch of Atlantic cod, pollock, redfish, and spiny dogfish. Once caught, fish would be sorted by species, measured, weighed, and returned to the water. No fish, shellfish, or other animals would be retained. The researchers estimate that less than 1,000 lb (453.6 kg) of haddock and less than 500 lb (226.8 kg) of all incidental species, combined, would be collected and returned to the water. The intent is for this project to take place between March and August 2007.

The applicant may place requests for minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and result in only a minimal change in the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. In accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216–6, a Categorical Exclusion or other appropriate NEPA document would be completed prior to the issuance of the EFP. Further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue the EFP. After publication of this document in the **Federal Register**, the EFP, if approved, may become effective following the public comment period.

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

Dated: January 23, 2007.

James P. Burgess,

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

[FR Doc. E7–1194 Filed 1–25–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011907B]

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 1022–1659 and 482–1653

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Doyle Hanan has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No.1022–1659, and James Gilbert has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 482–1653.

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

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713–2289; fax (301) 427–2521;

Permit No. 1022–1659: Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213; phone (562) 980–4001; fax (562) 980–4018; and

Permit No. 482–1653: Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930–2298; phone (978) 281–9300; fax (978) 281–9394.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan or Brandy Hutnak, (301) 713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested amendments have been

granted 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 amendments extend the expiration date of the permits from January 31, 2007, to January 31, 2008; Permit No. 1022–1659 for takes of California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) found near bait receivers located in various southern California harbors; and Permit No. 482–1653 for takes of harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) in New England waters.

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 activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: January 22, 2007.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E7–1281 Filed 1–25–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a meeting via web conference call of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (Committee). The web conference call is open to the public, and participants can dial in to the call. Participants who choose to use the web conferencing feature in addition to the audio will be able to view the presentation as it is being given. Members of the public wishing to listen should contact Lauren Wenzel at the email or telephone number below for the call-in number and passcode.

DATES: The meeting will be held Thursday, February 1 from 2 to 5 p.m. (Eastern time). Refer to the web page listed below for the most up-to-date meeting agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lauren Wenzel, Designated Federal Officer, MPA FAC, National Marine Protected Areas Center, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910. (Phone: 301–713–3100 x136, Fax: 301–713–3110); e-mail: *lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov;* or visit the National MPA Center Web site at *http://www.mpa.gov*).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee, composed of external, knowledgeable representatives of stakeholder groups, was established by the Department of Commerce to provide advice to the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior on implementation of Section 4 of Executive Order 13158.

Matters To Be Considered: The Committee will discuss and vote on its comments on the *Draft Framework for Developing a National System of Marine Protected Areas,* a document produced by the National Marine Protected Areas Center that is currently out for public review until February 14, 2007. The document and any related Committee materials for the conference call will be posted at *http://www.mpa.gov.*

Dated: January 10, 2007.

David M. Kennedy,

Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

[FR Doc. E7–1097 Filed 1–25–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–08–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[No. DOD–2007–HA–0002]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs announces a new proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. 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 of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by March 27, 2007.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and or RIN number and title, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov*. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Federal Docket Management System Office, 1160 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–1160.

Instructions: all submissions received must include the agency name and docket number or Regulatory Information Number (RIN) for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public view on the Internet at *http://www.regulations.gov* as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (OASD), TRICARE—Health Program Analysis and Evaluation, ATTN: LtCol Dawn Erckenbrack, 5111 Leesburg Pike, Suite 801A, Falls Church, VA 22041–3206, or call (703) 681–0039.

Title and OMB Number: TRICARE Network Provider Survey; OMB Control Number 0720–TBD.

Needs and Uses: The goals of this survey effort are to stress TRICARE Network Provider satisfaction, attitudes and perceptions regarding the services provided by civilian Health Care Support and Service Contractors (HCSS) and TRICARE.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households; Federal Government.

Annual Burden Hours: 2,790.

Number of Respondents: 9,000.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden per Response: .31.

Frequency: Annually.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

The goals of this survey effort are to assess TRICARE Network Provider satisfaction, attitudes and perceptions regarding the services provided by civilian Health Care Support and Service Contractors (HCSS) and TRICARE. The survey focuses on basic business functions provided by the HCSS Contractors such as inquiries,