

Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

This research permit authorizes aerial and vessel surveys to be conducted including close approach, photo-id, and incidental harassment of cetaceans. Level A activities include biopsy sampling and suction-cup tagging, which will be conducted on all age classes with the exception of neonates. Additionally, researchers are authorized to capture, biological sample, incidentally harass, and release four species of pinnipeds. Pinniped research would be conducted on all age classes including pups. The study area for this permit includes waters within or proximal to the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone from Maine to Florida. Finally, researchers are authorized to import and export cetacean and pinniped specimens (including soft and hard tissue, blood, extracted DNA, whole dead animals, etc.) to/from any country.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an environmental assessment was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities. After a Finding of No Significant Impact, the determination was made that it was not necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit: (1) was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: January 22, 2008.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. E8–1431 Filed 1–25–08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN: 0648–XF30**

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Monday, February 11, 2008, at 9 am.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Courtyard by Marriot, 1000 Market Street, Portsmouth NH 03801; telephone: (603) 436–2121.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978)465–0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Groundfish Oversight Committee will meet to continue development of Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Amendment 16 is being developed to continue the rebuilding of groundfish stocks and will be implemented May 1, 2009. The Committee will develop a recommendation for Annual Catch Limits (ACLs), review plan development team recommendations for effort controls, and may address sector management issues. The Committee may also develop additional recommendations for Amendment 16 that will be considered by the Council at a meeting on February 13 and 14.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

## Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 23, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. E8–1423 Filed 1–25–08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN: 0648–XF31**

#### New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a three-day Council meeting on February 12–14, 2008, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12 beginning at 9 a.m., and Wednesday and Thursday, February 13–14, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431–2300.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Following introductions and any announcements the Council will receive a series of brief reports from the Council Chairman and Executive Director, the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA General Counsel, NOAA Enforcement and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Council also will review and approve a scoping document for Amendment 15 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Issues that are likely to be included are annual catch limits and accountability measures, measures to address excess capacity and allow sectors in the limited access scallop fishery and reconsideration of the current scallop overfishing definition. Following an brief opportunity for the public to address items that are otherwise not listed on the Council agenda, there will be a final review of several Council policies concerning enforcement, advisory panels and sectors. The day will conclude with an update on the development of the Amendment 3 to the Skate FMP.

### Wednesday, February 13, 2008

The Council's Research Steering Committee Chairman will recommend approval of comments on the NMFS proposed rule that would revise the experimental fishery permit process and ask for consideration and approval of Council research priorities for 2008. The Council also will review the findings of the committee concerning any cooperative research final reports they have reviewed. As a separate agenda item, the Council will consider commenting on any current experimental fishery permit applications. The Habitat Committee will review and discuss its recommendations on the previously designated Southern Canyon Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) and possibly ask for approval of any modifications to those HAPCs. The last item of the day will involve review and approval of a process to consider additional gears for use in the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Regular B Days-at-Sea Program and the U.S./Canada Haddock Special Access Program. The Council also will review and approve an annual catch limit alternative for Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP.

### Thursday, February 14, 2008

Groundfish issues will be covered throughout the final day of the meeting and will include consideration and approval of alternatives to be analyzed for Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP, including but not limited to effort controls, sector administration, research set-asides, annual catch limits and accountability measures and allowing vessels to possess both a limited access scallop and a groundfish permit.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come

before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed 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 that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 23, 2008.

### Tracey L. Thompson,

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E8-1424 Filed 1-25-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Recording Assignments

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), 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 the continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before March 28, 2008.

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

*E-mail:* Susan.Fawcett@uspto.gov.  
Include "0651-0027 comment" in the subject line of the message.

*Fax:* 571-273-0112, marked to the attention of Susan Fawcett.

*Mail:* Susan K. Fawcett, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Customer Information Services Group, Public Information Services Division, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Joyce R. Johnson, Manager, Assignment Division, Mail Stop 1450, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA

22313-1450; by telephone at 703-308-9706; or by e-mail at [Joyce.Johnson@uspto.gov](mailto:Joyce.Johnson@uspto.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 261 and 262 for patents and 15 U.S.C. 1057 and 1060 of the Trademark Act of 1946 for trademarks. These statutes authorize the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to record patent and trademark assignment documents, including transfers of properties (i.e. patents and trademarks), liens, licenses, assignments of interest, security interests, mergers, and explanations of transactions or other documents that record the transfer of ownership of a particular patent or trademark property from one party to another. Assignments are recorded for applications, patents, and trademark registrations.

The USPTO administers these statutes through 37 CFR 2.146, 2.171, and 37 CFR Part 3. These rules permit the public, corporations, other federal agencies, and Government-owned or Government-controlled corporations to submit patent and trademark assignment documents and other documents related to title transfers to the USPTO to be recorded. In accordance with 37 CFR 3.54, the recording of an assignment document by the USPTO is an administrative action and not a determination of the validity of the document or of the effect that the document has on the title to an application, patent, or trademark.

Once the assignment documents are recorded, they are available for public inspection. The only exceptions are those documents that are sealed under secrecy orders according to 37 CFR 3.58 or related to unpublished patent applications maintained in confidence under 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. The public uses these records to conduct ownership and chain-of-title searches. The public may view these records either at the USPTO Public Search Facilities or at the National Archives and Records Administration, depending on the date they were recorded. The public may also search patent and trademark assignment information online through the USPTO Web site.

In order to file a request to record an assignment, the respondent must submit an appropriate cover sheet along with copies of the assignment documents to be recorded. The USPTO provides two paper forms for this purpose, the Patent Recordation Form Cover Sheet (PTO-1595) and the Trademark Recordation