

identification, behavioral observations, and passive acoustics and may be conducted until January 31, 2010.

File No. 10081: Issued to Natalija Lace, University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39406, on November 13, 2007, to investigate how natural features and the noise levels of habitats affect the acoustic characteristics of the signals produced by bottlenose dolphins. Activities include the use of passive acoustics in Tampa Bay, Florida through November 15, 2010.

File No. 1064-1748: Issued to National Ocean Service's Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research, 219 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC [Principal Investigator: Eric Zolman] on February 8, 2008, for photo-identification and vessel surveys of bottlenose dolphins off South Carolina through March 31, 2009. The study was modified to expand the geographic location to include east-central Georgia and to add focal follows as a research tool to examine interactions between dolphins and crab pots. The amended Letter of Confirmation No. 1064-1748-01 supercedes version 1064-1748-00 issued on March 30, 2004.

File No. 13386: Issued to The Taras Oceanographic Foundation, 905 Stonewood Court, Jupiter, FL [Principal Investigator: Barbara Brunnick] on May 12, 2008, to document the abundance and distribution of bottlenose dolphins off the coast of Palm Beach County, Florida. Activities include the use of photo-identification and vessel surveys and are authorized through June 1, 2013.

File No. 13427: Issued to the Pacific Whale Foundation, 300 Ma'alaea Rd., Ste. 211, Wailuku, HI 96793 [Principal Investigator: Quincy A. Gibson, Ph.D.] on June 4, 2008, for line transect surveys and photo-identification of several non-listed cetacean species found in the deeper waters offshore of Maui County, Hawaii. The purpose of the proposed research is to gather information on the distribution, habitat use, abundance and behavior of several lesser studied, non-listed odontocetes. The activities may be conducted through June 15, 2013.

File No. 13416: Issued to Jessica Weiss, 310 West Eden St., Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948, on June 4, 2008, for the close approach, photo-identification, behavioral observations, and focal follows of bottlenose dolphins within North Carolina waters and the adjacent Atlantic Ocean. The purpose of this research is to investigate the seasonal and year-round residency of Western North Atlantic coastal or offshore bottlenose dolphins in the northern

Outer Banks of North Carolina, in addition to identifying any biological and/or ecological stressors on the dolphins in the area. The activities may be conducted through May 31, 2013.

File No. 1099-1846: Issued to Jamie McKee, SAIC, 1140 Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32578 on May 12, 2006, for line transect surveys for the inshore and estuarine stocks of Atlantic bottlenose dolphins in south Georgia estuaries near the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. These activities may be conducted until May 31, 2011. This study was modified to authorize photo-identification of animals during surveys. The amended Letter of Confirmation No. 1099-1846-01 supercedes version 1099-1846-00, issued on June 6, 2008.

File No. 572-1869: Issued to Daniel K. Odell, Ph.D., Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, 6295 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32821 on June 17, 2008, to conduct vessel surveys, photo-identification, behavioral observations, passive acoustic recordings, and videography of bottlenose dolphins in the Indian River Lagoon on the east-central coast of Florida; in the Key West, FL area; and in the coastal waters of Georgia. In addition, aerial surveys of bottlenose dolphins may be conducted over the Indian River Lagoon. These activities may be conducted through November 14, 2011. The study was modified to include photo-identification work in waters from Ponce Inlet to the northern border of Flagler County in Florida. The amended Letter of Confirmation No. 572-1869-01 supercedes version 572-1869-00, issued on November 14, 2006.

File No. 13525: Issued to Richard Connor, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, North Dartmouth, MA 02740 on July 25, 2008, for behavioral observations, video documentation, and photo-identification of bottlenose dolphins in Beaufort County, SC. The activities may be conducted through October 31, 2010.

File No. 13549: Issued to Moby A. Solangi, Ph.D., Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, P.O. Box 207, Gulfport, MS 39502 on August 20, 2008, for transect surveys, photo-identification, and behavioral observations of bottlenose dolphins in the estuaries of the Gulf of Mexico. Occasional aerial surveys are also authorized. The activities may be conducted through August 31, 2012.

File No. 572-1869: Issued to Daniel K. Odell, Ph.D., Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, 6295 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32821 on August 20, 2008. The study was modified to allow aerial surveys at a minimum altitude of 152 meters (500 feet). The amended Letter of

Confirmation No. 572-1869-02 supercedes version 572-1869-01, issued on June 17, 2008 (see above paragraph for File No. 572-1869 for details).

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination was made that the activities are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: October 3, 2008.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E8-24015 Filed 10-8-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648-XK84

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting; Revision

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

ACTION: Notice of rescheduling of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Research Steering Committee (Committee), in October, 2008, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2008 has been cancelled and rescheduled for Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200; fax: (508) 339-1040.

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: This meeting was originally scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2008. The original notice published in the **Federal**

Register on Thursday, October 2, 2008 (73 FR 57336).

The Council's Research Steering Committee (Committee) will address a range of issues including a briefing on the status of NMFS' Cooperative Research Program activities and funding. The Committee also will review preliminary work of the NEFMC's 5-year research priorities. The Committee will re-examine, and possibly revise, the evaluation criteria for cooperative research priorities subject to review by the Committee as well as review a small number of cooperative research project final reports. The Committee will also discuss the use of a workshop format to conduct future Committee management reviews. Finally, the Committee will discuss outstanding issues related to the Council's research set-aside programs if time allows. The Committee may consider other topics at their discretion.

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 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 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, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 6, 2008.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Docket Number: 0810021307-81308-01

Enhancing the Security and Stability of the Internet's Domain Name and Addressing System

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

ACTION: Notice of Inquiry

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Department) notes the increase in interest among government, technology experts and industry representatives regarding the deployment of Domain Name and Addressing System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) at the root zone level. The Department remains committed to preserving the security and stability of the DNS and is exploring the implementation of DNSSEC in the DNS hierarchy, including at the authoritative root zone level. Accordingly, the Department is issuing this notice to invite comments regarding DNSSEC implementation at the root zone.

DATES: Comments are due on November 24, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted by mail to Fiona Alexander, Associate Administrator, Office of International Affairs, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 4701, Washington, DC 20230. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to (202) 482-1865 or electronically via electronic mail to DNSSEC@ntia.doc.gov. Comments will be posted on NTIA's website at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/DNS/DNSSEC.html>. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information about this Notice, please contact Ashley Heineman at (202) 482-0298 or ahaineman@ntia.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background. The Domain Name and Addressing System (DNS) is a critical component of the Internet infrastructure and is used by almost every Internet protocol-based application to associate human readable computer hostnames with the numerical addresses required to deliver information on the Internet. It is a hierarchical and globally distributed system in which distinct servers maintain the detailed information for their local domains and pointers for how to navigate the hierarchy to retrieve information from other domains. The accuracy, integrity, and availability of the information supplied by the DNS are essential to the operation of any system, service or application that uses the Internet.

The DNS was not originally designed with strong security mechanisms to ensure the integrity and authenticity of the DNS data. Over the years, a number of vulnerabilities have been identified in the DNS protocol that threaten the accuracy and integrity of the DNS data and undermine the trustworthiness of

the system. Technological advances in computing power and network transmission speeds have made it possible to exploit these vulnerabilities more rapidly and effectively.¹

Development of the DNSSEC Protocol. To mitigate the long-recognized vulnerabilities in the DNS, the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), using the same open standards process employed to develop the core DNS protocols, has developed a set of protocol extensions to protect the Internet from certain DNS related attacks: DNSSEC.² DNSSEC is designed to support authentication of the source and integrity of information stored in the DNS using public key cryptography and a hierarchy of digital signatures. It is designed to offer protection against forged ("spoofed") DNS data, such as that created by DNS cache poisoning, by providing: (1) validation that DNS data is authentic; (2) assurance of data integrity; and (3) authenticated denial of existence.³ DNSSEC does not provide any confidentiality for, or encryption of, the DNS data itself. The DNSSEC protocol also does not protect against denial of service (DoS) attacks or other attacks against the name server itself.⁴

The DNSSEC protocol is designed to allow for deployment in discrete zones within the DNS infrastructure without requiring deployment elsewhere, as DNSSEC is an opt-in technology. Signing of any individual zone or domain within the hierarchy does not

¹ See, National Research Council, *The National Academies, Signposts in Cyberspace: The Domain Name System and Internet Navigation 154* (2005)(*Signposts*), http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11258#toc (last checked September 29, 2008); Department of Homeland Security, National Security Division, and National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Vulnerability Database, Vulnerability Summary for CVE-2008-1447 (Original release date July 08, 2008; last revised September 17, 2008) available at <http://web.nvd.nist.gov/view/vuln/detail?vulnId=CVE-2008-1447> (last checked September 23, 2008) (This site provides a list of most recent advisories regarding DNS vulnerabilities including DNS spoofing, cache poisoning, etc., and includes links to tools and solutions).

² The DNSSEC protocol has been under development since the 1990s with the latest revision approved by the IETF in 2005. RFC 4033 and its companion documents RFCs 4034 and 4035 update, clarify and refine the security extensions previously defined originally in RFC 2535 and its predecessors. *Id.*, *Signposts*, at 154; see also, S. Rose and R. Chandramouli, "Challenges in Securing the Domain Name System," Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Security and Privacy Journal, Vol. 4, No. 1, 84 (Tom Karygiannis, Rick Kuhn, and Susan Landau eds., Jan./Feb. 2006)(Challenges), <http://www.antd.nist.gov/pubs/Rose-Challenges%20in%20Securing%20DNS.pdf>.

³ R. Arends *et al.*, DNS Security Introduction and Requirements, Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Request for Comment (RFC) 4033 (March 2005)(RFC 4033), <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4033.txt> (last checked September 24, 2008).

⁴ *Id.*