

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that James T. Harvey, Ph.D., Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, 8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, CA 95039, has been issued a major amendment to Permit No. 555-1870-00.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit amendment 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)713-0376; and Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy Sloan or Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On December 8, 2009, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 64686) that a request for an amendment to Permit No. 555-1870-00 to conduct research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) had been submitted by the above-named applicant. One project in the requested permit amendment (increasing the number of animals taken in the wild) has been issued and another project in the requested amendment (temporary captivity of wild seals) has been denied 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 permit amendment (Permit No. 555-1870-01) authorizes an increase in the number of harbor seal pups taken annually in California by capture, sedation, tagging, and sampling from 40 seals (20 males and 20 females) to 70 seals (35 males and 35 females). The request to bring up to six seals into temporary captivity for a pilot study to assess the efficacy of a modified sedation protocol for the surgical implantation of subcutaneous tag implants was denied. The facility proposed did not meet minimum standards for space as required by Animal Welfare Act regulations for the humane handling, care and treatment of marine mammals. Therefore, the applicant could not demonstrate that the activity proposed was humane and did not present any unnecessary risks to

the health and welfare of the marine mammals (50 CFR 216.34(1)(a)).

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 activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: February 24, 2010.

**Tammy C. Adams,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XV01

#### Fisheries of the South Atlantic; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting of Wreckfish Shareholders for the South Atlantic region to discuss draft Amendment 20 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP) which considers changes to the Wreckfish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold a meeting of Wreckfish Shareholders for the South Atlantic region. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**DATES:** The meeting will take place March 29-30, 2010. The meeting will be held from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. on March 29, 2010 and 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon on March 30, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the office of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; telephone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520. Persons interested in listening to the discussions may call (877) 774-6707, PIN 1 294.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; telephone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is being convened to gather input from Wreckfish Shareholders on changes the Council is considering for the current ITQ program in Amendment 20 to the Snapper Grouper FMP. Some of the changes considered include implementing a cost recovery program, re-issuing unused quota, and implementing an Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for the wreckfish stock.

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

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 3 days prior to the meetings.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Dated: March 5, 2010.

**William D. Chappell,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XV00

#### Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a meeting of the Ad Hoc Data Collection Advisory Panel.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 29, 2010 and conclude by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30, 2010.