

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XA123

Marine Mammals; File No. 15616

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Craig Matkin, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer, AK, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on marine mammals.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before February 4, 2011.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 15616 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

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 Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by e-mail to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams or Kristy Beard, (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant requests a five-year permit to study marine mammals in Alaskan waters, including southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, the Kenai Peninsula, the Eastern Aleutian Islands, and the Bering Sea. The purpose of the research is to maintain a long-term killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) monitoring program in Alaskan waters that was initiated over 25 years ago. In addition, the permit holder would examine movements of other non-endangered cetacean species along the North Gulf Coast of Alaska in relation to U.S. Navy testing activities. The proposed research activities include photo-identification, passive acoustic recording, biopsy sampling, tagging with barbed darts and suction cups, and collecting samples of marine mammal carcasses from sites of killer whale predation.

The applicant requests to photoidentify and acoustically record (PI), biopsy sample (BS), attach barbed dart satellite tags (DT), and suction cup tags (ST) to the following cetacean species: killer whales (PI 2000, BS 100, DT 75, ST 75), gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*; PI 100, BS 8, DT 25), Baird's beaked whales (*Berardius bairdii*; PI 50, BS 8, DT 8), Cuvier's beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*; PI 50, BS 8, DT 8), and Stejneger's beaked whales (*Mesoplodon stejnegeri*; PI 50, BS 8, DT 8). Prey remains would be collected from carcasses of the following species: 15 minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), 25 gray whale, 15 harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), 15 Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*), 25 harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), 15 Pacific white-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*), 25 northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*), 25 other "unidentified" cetaceans, and 25 other "unidentified" pinnipeds.

An initial determination has been made in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: December 29, 2010.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2010-33309 Filed 1-4-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648-XA126

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) will convene a meeting of the Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT) which is open to the public.

DATES: The EPDT will meet on Wednesday, January 26, 2011, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and on Thursday, January 27th beginning at 8:30 a.m. Both meeting sessions will conclude at 5 p.m., or when business for each day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The EPDT meeting will be held at the NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Conference Room, 110 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; telephone: (831) 420-3900.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Burner, Staff Officer; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Please note, this is not a public hearing; it is a work session for the primary purpose of drafting a report and recommendations to the Council on the development of an Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (EFMP). At the September 2010 Council meeting, the EPDT and the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel provided an initial report on EFMP development that included a draft statement of purpose and need, a list of initial goals and objectives, and options for the EFMP's geographic range, managed species, and regulatory scope. In response, the Council tasked the EPDT with a review of the Council's four fishery management plans (FMPs) to identify existing ecosystem-based principles as well as common management needs that may benefit from a coordinated overarching EFMP framework. A draft version of an EPDT report responding to the Council's direction will be reviewed at this meeting and is ultimately scheduled to be presented to the Council and its Advisory Bodies at the March 2011 Council meeting in Vancouver, WA.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the EPDT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of

formal EPDT action during this meeting. EPDT 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the 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 Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 30, 2010.

William D. Chappell,

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

[FR Doc. 2010-33277 Filed 1-4-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA127

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 3-day Council meeting on Tuesday–Thursday, January 25–27, 2011 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 25 and at 8:30 a.m. on each of the following two meeting days.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431-2300 and fax: (603) 433-5649.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Following introductions and any announcements, the Council will begin its meeting with 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, representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, as well as NOAA Enforcement. These reports will be followed by a review of any experimental fishery permit applications that have been received since the last Council meeting in November 2010. The Chairman of the Habitat Committee will then provide a brief update on activities to date to complete Habitat Omnibus 2, an action that will amend all of the Council's Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) with respect to Essential Fish Habitat and minimizing the habitat impacts of fishing activities. Members of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will report on their white paper and further outline approaches to undertaking ecosystem-based fisheries management. Prior to a lunch break, an Ocean Observatories Initiative representative will present an outline of their project—a networked sensor system array proposed for offshore Southern New England to measure the physical, chemical, geological and biological variables in the ocean and its seafloor. During the afternoon session, the Council will accept public comments on issues related to fisheries management, but not listed on the meeting agenda. Later, the Skate Committee will discuss and the Council will consider approval of an action to lower the skate wing possession limit for the 2011 fishing year. A Northeast Fisheries Science Center representative will report on the November 2010 Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee meeting that determined the status of *Loligo*, and five species of hake. The day will conclude with a report on the recent International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meeting. The focus will be on bluefin tuna and northern swordfish.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

During the morning session, the Council may initiate a framework adjustment to the Northeast Multispecies FMP that could include a catch cap for haddock taken in the herring midwater trawl fishery.

Following this discussion, the Herring Committee will ask the Council to approve management alternatives for inclusion in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that will accompany Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP. The action may address the following: catch monitoring alternatives; river herring bycatch; midwater trawl access to the groundfish closed areas; interactions with the Atlantic mackerel fishery; and protection for spawning herring. This agenda item will be discussed until the meeting adjourns at the end of the business day.

Thursday, November 19, 2009

The last day of the Council meeting will begin with a discussion of an amendment to the Northeast Multispecies FMP that could authorize state-operated permit banks as well as groundfish fleet diversity and accumulation limits. The Council also may discuss recent legislation that will affect the U.S./Canada Resource Sharing Understanding and may comment on the NMFS proposed rule for Framework Adjustment 45 to the Multispecies FMP. NOAA General Counsel in the Northeast Region will provide an update on case developments and/or regulatory issues that have arisen over the last six-to-eight months. Following this review, the Council plans to initiate Framework Adjustment 23 to the Sea Scallop FMP. The action could require scallop dredge vessels to use a turtle excluder device, possibly modify the amount of yellowtail flounder allocated to the scallop fishery and modify the limited access general category program in the Northern Gulf of Maine. The Council also plans to take final action on Framework Adjustment 7 to the Monkfish FMP. Included are measures to revise the biomass reference points, and accordingly, the Annual Catch Target in the monkfish Northern Management Area. Days-at-sea and trip limits for the 2011–13 fishing years also will be modified. Before adjournment, the Council may address any other outstanding business related to this meeting.

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.