

musculus), fin whale (*B. physalus*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), right whale (*Eubalaena japonica*), sei whale (*B. borealis*), beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) Cook Inlet stock, killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) southern resident stock, and sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*). The false killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*) Hawaiian insular stock is proposed for listing under the ESA. Seven species of pinnipeds may be incidentally harassed from research activities, including three species listed as endangered: Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*), Guadalupe fur seals (*Arctocephalus townsendi*), and Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*). The purposes of the proposed research are to study: (1) Population size and structure, (2) range and movement patterns, (3) diving and night-time behavior, (4) social organization, (5) feeding ecology, and (6) disease monitoring. Harassment of all species of cetaceans may occur through vessel approach for sighting surveys, photographic identification, behavioral research, opportunistic sampling (breath, sloughed skin, fecal material, and prey remains), and aerial over-flights for the purpose of locating animals and conducting aerial validation studies. All cetaceans species (except harbor porpoise, right whales, and Cook Inlet beluga whales) and unidentified mesoplodon and baleen species would be dart and/or suction-cup tagged. Import and export of marine mammal prey specimens, sloughed skin, fecal and breath samples obtained is requested for research purposes. Research would occur over a five-year period.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a draft environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine whether significant environmental impacts could result from issuance of the proposed scientific research permit. The draft EA is available for review and comment simultaneous with the scientific research permit application.

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.

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations:

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;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426;

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

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562) 980-4018; and

Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808) 973-2935; fax (808) 973-2941.

Dated: February 18, 2011.

P. Michael Payne,

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-XA248

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) is scheduling a public meeting of its Research Steering Committee (Committee), in March, 2011, 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 will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923; *telephone:* (978) 777-2500; *fax:* (978) 750-7959.

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 committee will review all funded cooperative research projects in the Northeast over the last several years, including those approved through

NOAA Fisheries, the Council's research set-aside programs, and both the Northeast Consortium and the Southern New England Research Collaborative Initiative. Information about project topic, level of funding and results will be organized in a format that will allow a clearer understanding of regional accomplishments and information gaps. The Research Steering Committee will have the opportunity to make recommendations about how to make the information collected more relevant to management, how to use research results more effectively, and also to comment on future research priorities.

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: February 22, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2011-4251 Filed 2-24-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA249

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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 its Law Enforcement Advisory Panel in conjunction with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Law Enforcement Committee.

DATES: The meeting will convene at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 and conclude no later than 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the JW Marriott Houston, 5150 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Deputy Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; *telephone:* (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel along with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Law Enforcement Committee to consider the status of recently completed amendments and other regulatory actions as well as the schedule for completion of ongoing actions. The two groups will also discuss and potentially make recommendations with regard to Joint Enforcement Agreements. A review and possible recommendations with regard to a recently published Proposed Rule to potentially reduce bycatch of bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico will also be conducted. Finally, the two panels will review and discuss a proposal to potentially modify requirements for crew size on vessels that have both commercial and for-hire permits.

The Law Enforcement Advisory Panel consists of principal law enforcement officers in each of the Gulf States, as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the U.S. Coast Guard, and the NOAA General Counsel for Law Enforcement. A copy of the agenda and related materials can be obtained by calling the Council office at (813) 348-1630.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel 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 of the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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 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 Kathy Pereira at the Council (*see ADDRESSES*) 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: February 22, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA247

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold a meeting.

DATES: The SSC meeting will be held on March 15-16, 2011.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel at Gallery Plaza (former Pierre Hotel), De Diego Avenue, Santurce, Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1920; telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SSC will meet to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

- Call to order.
- Queen Conch.
 - Update on status of queen conch in the USVI and PR.
 - ACL 2011 Amendment.
 - Presentation/review of requirements to establish ACLs for species, which are not overfished or undergoing overfishing (ACL II) and species/species groups under consideration.
 - Species that need ACLs in 2011:
 1. Reef Fish FMP.
 2. Coral FMP.
 3. Spiny Lobster FMP.
 4. Queen Conch FMP.
 - Issues:
 1. Reporting.
 2. unclassified (reef fish and queen conch).

3. list of species not included in Options Paper but included in FMPs.

4. Proposed ACLs with accompanying data.

5. Ornamental Species.

• Discussion and recommendations by SSC.

1. Species/species unit recommendations based on data, species life history, etc.

2. Indicator species recommendations for units with more than one species.

3. ACL recommendations.

• Update on Aquarium Trade.

• Review D. Olsen letter—MRAG study versus catch intercepts reporting—Validation of catch data. Discussion regarding data gathering regarding Virgin Islands commercial fishery.

• Update of St. Croix Independent Fishery Trap Survey.

• Update on status of data from PR and USVI, including issues that need to be addressed to obtain more timely data.

• Status of the implementation of MRIP in PR and plans for implementation in USVI.

• Review of specific research directed to ACLs and recommendations by SSC of type of research that should be given priority to provide information for establishing ACLs.

Essential Fish Habitat

EFH 5-year-revision document.

Discussion and Final recommendation to the CFMC SEDAR 26: Silk and queen snapper, red tail parrotfish.

Commitment to the workshops and time (Data-Assessment-Review) Other Business.

The SSC will convene on March 15, 2011, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and will reconvene on March 16, 2011, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, and will be conducted in English.

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 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. For more information or request for sign language