

Dated: June 8, 2005.

Mitchell Luxenberg,

*Acting Director, Management and Budget,
National Ocean Service, National Oceanic
and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 05-11980 Filed 6-16-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JE-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060805D]

Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Notice; affirmative finding.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, (Assistant Administrator) has renewed the affirmative finding for the Government of Mexico under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This affirmative finding will allow yellowfin tuna harvested in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) in compliance with the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) by Mexican-flag purse seine vessels or purse seine vessels operating under Mexican jurisdiction to be imported into the United States. The affirmative finding was based on review of documentary evidence submitted by the Government of Mexico and obtained from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the U.S. Department of State.

DATES: Effective April 1, 2005, through March 31, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone 562-980-4000; fax 562-980-4018.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMPA, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, allows the entry into the United States of yellowfin tuna harvested by purse seine vessels in the ETP under certain conditions. If requested by the harvesting nation, the Assistant Administrator will determine whether to make an affirmative finding based upon documentary evidence provided by the government of the harvesting nation, the IATTC, or the Department of State.

The affirmative finding process requires that the harvesting nation meet its obligations under the IDCP and

obligations of membership in the IATTC. Every 5 years, the government of the harvesting nation must request an affirmative finding and submit the required documentary evidence directly to the Assistant Administrator. On an annual basis NMFS will review the affirmative finding and determine whether the harvesting nation continues to meet the requirements. A nation may provide information related to compliance with IDCP and IATTC measures directly to NMFS on an annual basis or may authorize the IATTC to release the information to NMFS to annually renew an affirmative finding determination without an application from the harvesting nation.

An affirmative finding will be terminated, in consultation with the Secretary of State, if the Assistant Administrator determines that the requirements of 50 CFR 216.24(f) are no longer being met or that a nation is consistently failing to take enforcement actions on violations, thereby diminishing the effectiveness of the IDCP.

As a part of the affirmative finding process set forth in 50 CFR 216.24(f), the Assistant Administrator considered documentary evidence submitted by the Government of Mexico or obtained from the IATTC and the Department of State and determined that Mexico has met the MMPA's requirements to receive an affirmative finding.

After consultation with the Department of State, the Assistant Administrator issued the Government of Mexico's affirmative finding allowing the continued importation into the United States of yellowfin tuna and products derived from yellowfin tuna harvested in the ETP by Mexican-flag purse seine vessels or purse seine vessels operating under Mexican jurisdiction. The affirmative finding will remain valid through March 31, 2010, subject to subsequent annual reviews by NMFS.

Dated: June 10, 2005.

William T. Hogarth

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 05-12022 Filed 6-16-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Marine Protected Areas Center New England Region Public Dialogue Meeting

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a public meeting concerning the development of a national system of marine protected areas (MPAs) pursuant to Executive Order 13158 (May 26, 2000). The Gulf of Mexico Region Public Dialogue will be held July 18, 2005, 6:30-9 p.m. in New Orleans, Louisiana. This is the third in a series of regional dialogues to be held around the United States to solicit input from the public concerning their views on a national system of MPAs. Additional meetings will be announced and scheduled pending available resources. Refer to the Web page listed below for background information concerning the development of the national system of MPAs. Meeting room capacity is limited to 75 people, and as such interested participants are required to RSVP via the e-mail address (preferable), fax number, or phone number listed below, by no later than 5 p.m. e.d.t. on July 8, 2005. Attendance will be available to the first 75 people who respond.

Those who wish to attend but cannot due to space or schedule limitations can find background materials at the Web page listed below and may submit written statements to the e-mail, fax, or mailing address below. A written summary of the meeting will be posted on the Web site within one month of its occurrence.

DATES: The meeting will be held Monday, July 18, 2005 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. e.d.t.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the New Orleans Marriott, 555 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan Kelsey, National System Development Coordinator, National Marine Protected Areas Center, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: (301)-713-3155 ext. 230, Fax: (301)-713-3110); e-mail: mpa.comments@noaa.gov; or visit the National MPA Center Web site at http://mpa.gov/national_system/.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These forums are intended to solicit the public's views regarding the development of a national system of MPAs. All input received via these

dialogues, e-mail, or fax will be for the public record and considered in developing a draft proposal for a national system of MPAs. At this preliminary stage in the effort to develop the national system, NOAA does not intend to respond to any comments received via these dialogues, e-mail, fax, or mail. Once a draft proposal is developed for the national system of MPAs, NOAA will publish it in the **Federal Register** for formal public comment and will subsequently provide a formal response to comments received.

Matters To Be Considered: Executive Order 13158 (May 26, 2000) calls for the development of a national system of MPAs. These forums are intended to solicit the public's views concerning the development of a national system of MPAs. Refer to the web page listed above for background information concerning these dialogues and the development of the national system of MPAs.

Dated: June 9, 2005.

Eldon Hout,

Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 05-11936 Filed 6-16-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 040227075-5140-02; I.D. 060205A]

National Marine Fisheries Service National Gravel Extraction Guidance

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of NMFS' final National Gravel Extraction Guidance (Gravel Guidance). In March 2004, NMFS released the draft Gravel Guidance for public comment. Nine comment letters were received from industry groups, state agencies, and unaffiliated citizens. Final revisions to the Gravel Guidance included consideration of these public comments.

ADDRESSES: The final NMFS National Gravel Extraction Guidance may be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/> or by sending a request to 1315 East West Highway, Room 14200, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katie McGlynn at 301-713-4300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Gravel Guidance is to provide updated information to NMFS staff participating in consultation activities where proposed gravel mining operations in or near rivers and streams may affect anadromous fish under NMFS jurisdiction and their habitats. The final Gravel Guidance is a revision and replacement of the 1996 National Gravel Extraction Policy. Changes to the 1996 Policy, based on input from NMFS staff, interagency, industry, and public comments, include: (1) updating references, information, and recommendations to reflect the current state of the science; (2) broadening the geographic scope of the guidance to apply to all NMFS regions, rather than just those on the west coast; and (3) revising the document from a NMFS policy document to internal guidance for NMFS staff.

NOAA Fisheries is responsible for protecting, managing and conserving marine, estuarine, and anadromous fish resources and their habitats. The watersheds of the United States where sand and gravel mining takes place provide essential spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish including salmon, shad, sturgeon, and striped bass. A national guidance document on gravel extraction will assist NMFS staff in determining whether proposed gravel extraction operations will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with Federal law, and that eliminates or minimizes any adverse impacts to anadromous fish and their habitats.

The recommendations incorporated into the guidance document are suggestions, and are not intended to be binding in any way. The Gravel Guidance does not specify the measures, if any, that would need to be implemented by parties engaged in gravel extraction activities in any given case to comply with applicable statutory requirements. In formulating its recommendations or prescriptions, NMFS will determine the acceptable means of demonstrating compliance with statutory requirements based on information available to the agency, as appropriate under the circumstances presented. As such, the language of the guidance document should not be read to establish any binding requirements on agency staff or the regulated community. Nor should the recommendations be regarded as static or inflexible. The recommendations are meant to be revised as the science upon which they are based improves and areas of uncertainty are resolved. The

recommendations are also meant to be adapted for regional or local use, so a degree of flexibility in their interpretation and application is necessary.

The notice of availability of the draft National Gravel Extraction Guidelines was published in the **Federal Register** on March 18, 2004 (69 FR 12837).

Dated: June 10, 2005.

Rebecca Lent

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 05-12021 Filed 6-16-05; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings Notice

TIME AND DATE: 11 a.m., Friday, July 1, 2005.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., NW., Washington, DC, 9th Floor Commission Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Surveillance Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 05-12050 Filed 6-15-05; 11:12 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings Notice

TIME AND DATE: 11 a.m., Friday, July 8, 2005.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., NW., Washington, DC, 9th Floor Commission Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Surveillance Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 05-12051 Filed 6-15-05; 11:12 am]

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