

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

[I.D. 012506F]

**Marine Mammals; File No. 978-1791**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Paul E. Nachtigall, Ph.D., Marine Mammal Research Program, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, P.O. Box 1106, Kailua, Hawaii 96734, has been issued a permit to conduct research on certain cetacean species.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit and related documents are available for review 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)427-2521; and

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Andrew Wright or Amy Sloan, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 19, 2005, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 28909) that a request for a scientific research permit to take certain cetacean species had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

This permit authorizes the permit holder to conduct hearing measurements on stranded cetaceans on beaches, in near-shore waters, and in rehabilitation facilities in the U.S.

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.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit: (1) was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: February 9, 2006.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

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

[FR Doc. E6-2195 Filed 2-15-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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

[I.D. 020106C]

**International Whaling Commission; Public Meeting; Announcement of Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the date and location of a public meeting being held to discuss International Whaling Commission (IWC) issues, including the outcome of the Revised Management Scheme Working Group meeting held at the end of February.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held March 31, 2006, at 10 am.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the NOAA Science Center Room, 1301 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cheri McCarty, 301-713-9090, Extension 183.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. The U.S. Commissioner has primary responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. He is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, Marine Mammal Commission, and by other agencies.

NOAA will hold a meeting to discuss IWC issues, including the outcome of the Revised Management Scheme

Working Group meeting held at the end of February. Any U.S. citizen with an identifiable interest in U.S. whale conservation policy may participate, but NOAA reserves the authority to inquire about the interests of any person who appears at a meeting and to determine the appropriateness of that person's participation. Persons who represent foreign interests may not attend. These stringent measures are necessary to protect the confidentiality of U.S. negotiating positions.

The meeting will be held at 10 am in the NOAA Science Center Room, 1301 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Please bring identification for admission into the building.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Cheri McCarty, 301-713-9090 extension 183, by March 20, 2006.

Dated: February 9, 2006.

**William T. Hogarth,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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

[I.D. 020806F]

**National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Fishery Management Council; March 5-10, 2006 Council Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

**DATES:** The Council and its advisory entities will meet March 5-10, 2006. The Council meeting will begin on Monday, March 6, at 1 p.m., reconvening at 8 a.m. each day Tuesday through Friday. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Monday, March 6 to address litigation and personnel matters. The Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.