

and implementation. The ESA specifies that recovery plans must include: (1) a description of site-specific management actions that may be necessary to achieve the plan's goals for the conservation and survival of the species; (2) objective, measurable criteria, which when met, would result in the species being removed from the list of threatened and endangered species; and (3) estimates of the time and costs required to achieve the plan's goal and achieve intermediate steps toward that goal. In addition, NMFS has developed interim recovery planning guidance (NMFS, 2004) that provides additional information to ensure consistency among recovery plans that are developed for all species managed by NMFS. The guidance also stresses the importance of involving stakeholders in the recovery planning process. NMFS will take into consideration all information we receive during this comment period in the preparation of draft recovery plans for salmon and steelhead in California.

In order to develop recovery plans that address multiple species in an ecosystem context, NMFS has organized its recovery planning activities in California into four recovery areas or "domains" (Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast, North-Central California Coast, South-Central California Coast, and California Central Valley). Each domain will have one or more recovery plans that address all the listed salmon ESUs and/or steelhead DPSs within it. While each recovery plan will meet the requirements of the ESA and will use consistent scientific principles, plan(s) for individual planning domains are expected to be different because of differences in species, the amount and quality of information regarding the species and habitat conditions, and differences in ongoing and planned conservation efforts such as CalFed in the Central Valley, the State of California coho salmon recovery plan on the north coast, and many other local planning efforts and initiatives.

To develop key technical products for all salmon ESUs and steelhead DPSs and to provide general science support, NMFS formed separate teams of scientists (called Technical Recovery Teams) for each of the four recovery planning domains described above. These teams are developing technical information on population structure of individual ESUs and DPSs, viability criteria for individual populations within ESUs and DPSs and for ESUs and DPSs as a whole, recommendations for future research, and a framework for monitoring the listed ESUs/DPSs.

Finally, NMFS has developed a schedule for producing draft recovery plans in each recovery domain by June 2007 and final recovery plans by January 2008. Because draft recovery plans may be developed using different approaches in the four domains and because of differences in information on the species in each domain, the level of detail in these draft recovery plans is expected to vary. NMFS will publish draft recovery plans in the **Federal Register** and public comment will be sought for each proposed plan.

NMFS requests relevant information from the public that should be addressed during preparation of draft recovery plans. Such information should address: (a) Biological and other criteria for removing the ESUs or DPSs from the list of threatened and endangered species; (b) factors that are presently limiting or threaten to limit survival of the ESUs or DPSs; (c) actions to address limiting factors and threats; (d) estimates of time and cost to implement recovery actions; and (e) research, monitoring, and evaluation needs.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: September 6, 2006.

Marta Nammack,

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E6-14986 Filed 9-8-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090506D]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) Dogfish Monitoring Committee will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel, 1850 Post Rd., Warwick, RI 02886, telephone: (401) 824-0670.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New

Street, Dover, DE 19904, telephone: (302) 674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 674-2331, extension 19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to consider the appropriateness of making changes, if any, to management measures currently in place for the upcoming (2007-08) fishing year for spiny dogfish. Management measures that will be discussed may include, but may not necessarily be limited to, quotas and daily landing limits.

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 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the MAFMC'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 M. Jan Saunders, (302) 674-2331 extension 18, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 6, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E6-14981 Filed 9-8-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090506E]

North Pacific 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Aleutian Island Ecosystem Team will meet in Seattle, WA.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday, September 27, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg 9, Room 2039, Seattle, WA 98115.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Evans, Council staff, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda will be as follows: Develop a plan for producing on Aleutian Island Fishery Ecosystem Plan, to review existing compilation materials, and to determine work assignments.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 6, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E6-14982 Filed 9-8-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.090506A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 774-1847

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Antarctic Marine Living Resources Program (Rennie Holt, Ph.D., Principal Investigator), 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037 has been issued a permit to conduct research on Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*) and leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*).

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

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: Kate Swails or Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 19, 2006, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (71 FR 35255) that a request for a scientific research permit to take Antarctic fur seals and leopard seals 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.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant will continue a long-term ecosystem monitoring program of pinniped species in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica. The target species of the study are the Antarctic fur seals and leopard seals, but southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonine*), crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*), Ross seals (*Ommatophoca rossii*) and Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) could be disturbed by the life history studies and census surveys.

The applicant will take up to 710 Antarctic fur seals and 20 leopard seals annually. The animals will be captured, measured, weighed, tagged, blood sampled, and have time-depth recorders, VHF transmitters, and platform terminal transmitters attached. A subset of fur seals will be given an enema, have a tooth extracted, milk sampled, and be part of a doubly-labeled water study on energetics. A subset of leopard seals will be blubber and muscle sampled. The permit authorizes the research-related mortality of up to three Antarctic fur seals and one leopard seal annually.

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: September 5, 2006.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E6-14987 Filed 9-8-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090106B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 1070-1783

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a permit held by Dr. Alejandro Acevedo-Gutierrez, Biology Department, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington (File No. 1070-1783) to conduct scientific research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) has been amended.

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

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tammy Adams or Amy Sloan, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 29, 2006, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (71 FR 37060) that an amendment to Permit No. 1070-1783-00 had been requested by the above named individual. The requested amendment has been issued 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 has been amended to increase the number of harbor seals that may be harassed annually during scat collection and to add a sampling location. The objective of the research remains the same: to study temporal and spatial variation in numbers and diet composition of harbor seals to determine responses of harbor seals to changes in prey density and the impact of seal behavior on marine protected areas. The permit remains valid through March 2011.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that