

required for the first three launches of the Delta IV vehicle. Diurnal observations were made at Flat Iron Rock on south VAFB. Pre-launch counts indicate a daily maximum of seals ranging between 26 and 87 seals and between 11 and 68 seals post-launch. No dependent pups were seen in the days surrounding the launch. As the launch occurred in the pre-dawn hours, no video recording was taken. It is unknown if any seals were present at the time of the launch; however, the high level of the tide indicates that it is unlikely. The 1-hour average sound level during the hour of the Delta IV launch was 69.1 decibels (dB), approximately 17 dB above the average background noise levels at this site.

Two juvenile harbor seals (approximately seven months old) were captured for hearing tests using auditory brainstem response (ABR) technique just prior to the Delta IV DMSP-17 launch under Scientific Research Permit No. 859-1680. They were held for a total of 2 days, and were ABR tested prior to and then again after the launch. Each seal was fitted with a plastic numbered tag in the hind flipper and a VHF radio transmitter immediately prior to release. There was no evidence indicating that the launch noise from the Delta IV caused a loss in hearing acuity. There was no evidence of injury, mortality, or abnormal behavior in any of the monitored harbor seals at VAFB as a result of this launch.

Delta II NROL-21

No monitoring was conducted on VAFB for the Delta II NROL-21 launch since it occurred outside of the harbor seal pupping season. However, biological and acoustic monitoring were conducted on SMI. Survey counts found 521 sea lions and 75 northern elephant seals. No sonic boom was heard or recorded. There was no evidence of injury, mortality, or abnormal behavior of any monitored pinnipeds on SMI as a result of this launch.

Minuteman III

Two of the Minuteman III launches (7 April and 14 June) occurred during the harbor seal pupping season, so monitoring was required at VAFB. Between seven and 16 seals and one dependent pup were seen in the days surrounding the April 7 launch at Lion's Head haul-out site. Between five and 11 seals and one weaned pup were seen at the same site in the days surrounding the June 14 launch. Video recordings were not possible during the time of either launch due to darkness. However, it is unlikely that any seals were present since the launches occurred during high

tide. There was likely only a small, temporary effect on hearing, if any.

Harbor Seal Pup Mortality

One dead harbor seal pup was observed at First Ledge on VAFB on April 15, approximately 18 hours post-launch of the Minotaur COSMIC rocket. The pup appeared to be "fresh dead" when first observed at 1430 PDT. VAFB monitors were unable to determine if the death was related to the launch. The area where the pup was found has a lot of ledges and caves, making it difficult to see all areas at the site. It is possible the pup washed up dead on the beach, but there is no way to know for certain. The animal did not show any signs of being orphaned. Gulls were already pecking at the carcass when it was discovered, so there was no way to assess the injuries. Also, approaching the animal would have disturbed other mother/pup pairs on the beach.

Additional conditions have been added to the 2007 LOA relating to serious injury and mortality. No take by serious injury or mortality is authorized in the LOA. VAFB is required to immediately contact staff at the NMFS Office of Protected Resources, Permits, Conservation, and Education Division, as well as staff at the Southwest Regional Office, NMFS if a dead pinniped is found during the monitoring period following a launch. In addition, the National Stranding Network must be notified immediately so that personnel can retrieve the carcass for examination, whenever possible. Every attempt will be made to collect a dead pinniped carcass discovered within 48 hours following a launch provided that the collection does not result in the disturbance (flushing) of other animals from the site. Any carcasses collected will be transferred to the Long Marine Laboratory in Santa Cruz, California for complete necropsy.

Authorization

The U.S. Air Force complied with the requirements of the 2006 LOA, and NMFS has determined that the marine mammal take resulting from the 2006 launches is within that analyzed in and anticipated by the associated regulations. Accordingly, NMFS has issued a LOA to the 30th Space Wing, U.S. Air Force authorizing the take by harassment of marine mammals incidental to missile and rocket launches at VAFB. Issuance of this LOA is based on findings described in the preamble to the final rule (67 FR 5720, February 6, 2004) and supported by information contained in VAFB's 2006 annual report that the activities described under this LOA will result in

the take of small numbers of marine mammals, will have a negligible impact on marine mammal stocks, and will not have an unmitigable impact on the availability of the affected marine mammal stocks for subsistence uses.

Dated: March 13, 2007.

James H. Lecky,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E7-5072 Filed 3-20-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031607A]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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 April 2-6, 2007. The Council meeting will begin on Monday, April 2, at 2 p.m., reconvening each day through Friday. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Monday, April 2 to address litigation and personnel matters. The Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Seattle Marriott Hotel, 3201 South 176th Street, Seattle, WA 98188; telephone: (206) 241-2000.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the Council agenda, but not necessarily in this order:

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions
2. Roll Call
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Approve Agenda

B. Enforcement Issues

1. U. S. Coast Guard Annual Fishery Enforcement Report

C. Administrative Matters

- 1. Future Council Meeting Agenda Planning
- 2. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Implementation
- 3. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes
- 4. Appointments to Advisory Bodies, Standing Committees, and Other Forums, Including any Necessary Changes to Council Operating Procedures
- 5. Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan
- 6. Legislative Matters
- 7. Council Three-Meeting Outlook, Draft June 2007 Council Meeting Agenda, and Workload Priorities

D. Open Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

E. Groundfish Management

- 1. NMFS Report
- 2. Consideration of 2007 Inseason Adjustments

- 3. Amendment 15: American Fisheries Act Issues
- 4. Final Action on 2007 Inseason Adjustments

F. Habitat

Current Habitat Issues

G. Salmon Management

- 1. NMFS Recovery Plan for Klamath River Coho
- 2. Tentative Adoption of 2007 Ocean Salmon Management Measures for Analysis
- 3. Methodology Review Process and Preliminary Topic Selection for 2007
- 4. Clarify Council Direction for 2007 Ocean Salmon Management Measures (if Needed)
- 5. Final Action on 2007 Ocean Salmon Management Measures
- 6. Clarify Final Action on 2007 Ocean Salmon Management Measures (if Needed)

H. Pacific Halibut Management

Incidental Catch Regulations for the Salmon Troll and Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries

I. Marine Protected Areas

Review of Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council Report

J. Highly Migratory Species Management

- 1. NMFS Report
- 2. Albacore Fishing Effort Characterization
- 3. Longline Fishery Experimental Fishery Permit
- 4. Yellowfin Tuna Overfishing
- 5. Council Operating Procedure for Coordination with Regional Fishery Management Organizations
- 6. Initial Guidance for Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Meeting

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS

Monday, April 2, 2007

- Council Secretariat
- Groundfish Advisory Subpanel
- Groundfish Management Team
- Salmon Advisory Subpanel
- Salmon Technical Team
- Scientific and Statistical Committee
- Habitat Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Methodology Evaluation Workgroup
- Enforcement Consultants
- Tribal Policy Group
- Tribal and Washington Technical Group
- Washington State Delegation

- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 9 a.m.
- 9 a.m.
- 9:30 a.m.
- 1 p.m.
- 4:30 p.m.
- As necessary.
- As necessary.
- As necessary.

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

- Council Secretariat
- California State Delegation
- Oregon State Delegation
- Enforcement Consultants
- Groundfish Advisory Subpanel
- Groundfish Management Team
- Salmon Advisory Subpanel
- Salmon Technical Team
- Scientific and Statistical Committee
- Tribal Policy Group
- Tribal and Washington Technical Group
- Washington State Delegation

- 7 a.m.
- 7 a.m.
- 7 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- As necessary.
- As necessary.
- As necessary.

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

- Council Secretariat
- California State Delegation
- Oregon State Delegation
- Enforcement Consultants
- Groundfish Advisory Subpanel
- Groundfish Management Team
- Salmon Advisory Subpanel
- Salmon Technical Team
- Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel
- Highly Migratory Species Management Team
- Enforcement Consultants
- Tribal Policy Group
- Tribal and Washington Technical Group
- Washington State Delegation

- 7 a.m.
- 7 a.m.
- 7 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 8 a.m.
- 1 p.m.
- 1 p.m.
- As necessary.
- As necessary.
- As necessary.

Thursday, April 5, 2007

- Council Secretariat
- California State Delegation
- Oregon State Delegation

- 7 a.m.
- 7 a.m.
- 7 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS—Continued

Enforcement Consultants	8 a.m.
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m.
Groundfish Management Team	8 a.m.
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m.
Highly Migratory Species Management Team	8 a.m.
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team	8 a.m.
Enforcement Consultants	As necessary.
Tribal Policy Group	As necessary.
Tribal and Washington Technical Group	As necessary.
Washington State Delegation	As necessary.
Friday, April 6, 2007	
Council Secretariat	7 a.m.
California State Delegation	7 a.m.
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.
Enforcement Consultants	8 a.m.
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m.
Salmon Technical Team	8 a.m.
Tribal Policy Group	As necessary.
Tribal and Washington Technical Group	As necessary.
Washington State Delegation	As necessary.

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

These meetings are 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: March 16, 2007.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E7-5145 Filed 3-20-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

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

[I.D. 020907C]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit Applications

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of applications; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On February 15, 2007, the NMFS announced receipt of seven applications for permits to conduct research on free-ranging threatened and endangered Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) in California, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska; five applications for permits to conduct research on free-ranging northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) in Alaska; and one application for an amendment to a permit for activities with captive Steller sea lions in Alaska. Written comments were due by April 2, 2007. NMFS has decided to allow additional time for submission of public comments on this action.

DATES: The public comment period for this action has been extended from April 2 to April 30, 2007. Written comments must be received or postmarked by April 30, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on the particular request(s) would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for

providing e-mail comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include the appropriate File Number(s) in the subject line of the e-mail comment as a document identifier.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams, Amy Sloan, Kate Swails, or Jaclyn Daly, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 15, 2007 (72 FR 7420) NMFS announced receipt of the following applications for permits: 782-1889, 358-1888, 881-1893, 881-1890, 434-1892, 1049-1886, 1034-1887, 715-1883, 715-1884, 715-1885, 1118-1881, 1119-1882, and 881-1745. Summaries of the specific permit applications can be found in the February 15, 2007, **Federal Register** notice and are not repeated here. Specific permit applications are available upon request from the locations provided in the February 15, 2007, **Federal Register** notice and at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/review.htm>.

Dated: March 15, 2007.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E7-5173 Filed 3-20-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of