

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 this particular request 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 in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 486-1919.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kate Swails or Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The purpose of the proposed research is to collect basic information on the breeding behavior, health and diseases, foraging ecology, migratory patterns, and population genetics of ice-associated Antarctic pinnipeds. Up to 50 seals of each of the four species would be captured, weighed, measured, biologically sampled (skin, blubber, blood, fecal), flipper tagged, satellite tagged, microbiological swabbed, and released. Up to 100 seals of each of the four species would be incidentally disturbed as a result of observational studies, scat collection, and capture and sampling activities. No mortality is requested and the permit would be issued for one year.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: May 10, 2007.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. E7-9325 Filed 5-14-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 0648-XA31]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 1032-1917

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Robert A. Garrott, Ecology Department, Montana State University, 310 Lewis Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*).

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before June 14, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** The application 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.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application 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 this particular request 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 in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1032-1917.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kate Swails or Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended

(MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The purpose of the research would be to evaluate how temporal variation in the marine environment affects a long-lived mammal's population dynamics. The applicant proposes to continue long-term studies of the Weddell seal population in the Erebus Bay, McMurdo Sound, Ross Sea and White Island areas of Antarctica. Up to 325 adults and 800 pups would be captured annually. Animals would be weighed, tissue sampled, flipper tagged, and released. Annually up to 2000 Weddell, 50 crabeater (*Lobodon carcinophagus*), and 50 leopard (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) seals may be incidentally disturbed as a result of the research activities. The applicant requests authorization for up to 4 (2 adults and 2 pups) Weddell seal research-related mortalities annually. The permit would be valid for five years from the date of issuance.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: May 10, 2007.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. E7-9341 Filed 5-14-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[XRIN: 0648-XA27]

#### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council); Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public meetings.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held June 4 - 7, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the W New Orleans, 333 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70130; telephone: (504) 525-9444.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Council****Wednesday, June 6, 2007**

11 a.m. - The Council meeting will begin with a review the agenda and minutes. Public testimony on exempted fishing permits (EFPs), if any, Final Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp 14, and Final Vermilion Snapper Regulatory Amendment 14 and Open Public Comment Period regarding any fishery issue or concern will be from 11:15 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. People wishing to speak before the Council should complete a public comment card prior to the comment period.

**Thursday, June 7, 2007**

The Council will review and discuss reports from the previous two days' committee meetings as follows:

8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. - Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum;

8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. - Administrative Policy;

9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. - Mackerel Management;

9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. - Data Collection;

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Budget/Personnel;

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management;

2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Reef Fish Management;

3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - Report of the Closed Council Meeting Conference Call;

3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. - The Council will conclude its meeting by discussing Other Business items.

**Committees****Monday, June 4, 2007**

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. - The Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Management Committee will meet to approve a public hearing draft of the Generic Offshore Aquaculture Amendment.

3 p.m. - 5 p.m. - The Administrative Policy Committee will meet to consider NMFS recommendations for Annual Catch Limits (ACL), Accountability Measures (AM), and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) charges in Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA).

**Tuesday June 5, 2007**

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - The Mackerel Management Committee will meet to consider actions recommended by the Joint Special Mackerel Group.

9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. - The Data Collection Committee will meet to hear a report on the progress of the National Committee on Recreational Data Surveys.

11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - The Budget/Personnel Committee will meet to consider the issue of increasing the liaison grant to the states.

1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - The Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committee will meet to hear summaries of public hearings and reports of SSC and Advisory Panels (APs) on draft Reef Fish 27/Shrimp 14 Amendment and to develop their recommendations to the Council.

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - The Reef Fish Management Committee will meet to recommend actions on Reef Fish Amendment 30, Part A and B, addressing overfishing of Reef Fish stocks and the Regulatory Amendment for Vermilion Snapper.

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. - NOAA Fisheries Service and Gulf Council staff will hold an open public forum/question and answer session on Gulf Reef Fish. This forum, while not a public hearing, will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions and discuss Gulf Reef Fish science and management issues in a less formal setting intended to increase dialogue between constituents and fishery managers.

**Wednesday, June 6, 2007**

8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. - The Reef Fish Management Committee continues to meet.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the Council and Committees 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 these meetings. Actions of the Council and Committees 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. The established times for addressing items on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. In order to further allow for such adjustments and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina Trezza at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: May 10, 2007.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. E7-9254 Filed 5-14-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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

[XRIN: 0648-XA26]

**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, 2007 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 Thursday, May 30, 2007, at 9 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200; fax: (508) 256-2550.

*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 several final cooperative research project reports and develop management advice for use by the Council; address the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's report on the impacts of fishing on groundfish spawning activities and related follow-up activities concerning the Northeast Region's Experimental Fishing Permit Program; develop recommendations concerning the peer review of the recently concluded study fleet pilot