

14. The States shall periodically review observation data collected by the Corps Fisheries Field Unit to determine if additional individually identifiable California sea lions qualify as predatory (as defined in paragraph 1) and notify the NMFS Northwest Regional Administrator if any additional sea lions are identified. NMFS may amend the Appendix, as described in paragraph 2.

15. After the third year of sea lion removals (in June of 2010), the States and NMFS shall review whether the average observed salmonid predation rate has fallen below 1 percent of the observed fish passage at the dam. If the Regional Administrator, NMFS Northwest Region determines that such predation rate has fallen below 1 percent, no lethal removal is authorized for the following year.

16. This authorization may be modified or revoked by NMFS at any time with 72 hours notice.

17. This authorization is valid until June 30, 2012, at which time it may be extended for an additional period of five years.

Pursuant to MMPA section 120(c)(5), and after receipt of reports from the States covering the first three years of authorized activity, NMFS will reconvene the Task Force to evaluate the States' reports and the effectiveness of the actions and any lethal take. NMFS will consider the reports, the Task Force recommendations, and the issues set out in section 120(c) of the MMPA, and may modify the authorization and conditions for the coming year(s), or revoke the authorization for lethal take.

NMFS requests that the States continue to cooperate in the pursuit of alternative technologies or methods to reduce California sea lion predation on salmonids in order to reduce the number of permanent removals of sea lions to the extent practicable. Additionally, if resources are available, the States are encouraged to monitor pinniped impacts on salmonids elsewhere in the lower Columbia River.

#### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

NEPA requires that Federal agencies conduct an environmental analysis of their actions to determine if the actions may affect the environment. Depending on the action and whether the impacts to the environment would be significant, Federal agencies may prepare and EA or environmental impact statement. When NMFS announced its intention to convene a Task Force, it advised the public that it would conduct the necessary analysis under NEPA. Prior to convening the first Task Force meeting, NMFS conducted

internal scoping under NEPA. Based on information in the States' application and public comments received on that application, NMFS concluded the appropriate level of analysis was an EA. After receiving and reviewing the Task Force recommendations, NMFS developed a proposed action, a range of reasonable alternatives and evaluated the environmental impacts of the proposed action in a draft EA. The proposed action, which NMFS has determined is the agency's preferred alternative is the partial approval of the States' section 120 application for lethal removal of California sea lions at Bonneville Dam, under certain conditions.

The draft EA was made available for public comment for 30 days. More than 3,500 comments were received during the public comment period, including comments from several Task Force member organizations (e.g., States, Tribes, Humane Society of the United States) and others including the Marine Mammal Commission, and Congressional office of Representative Doc Hastings.

After reviewing public comments on the draft EA, NMFS has completed its evaluation of the environmental consequences of the proposed action and concluded that it will not result in any significant impacts on the human environment and, therefore, has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI). The draft EA, EA and FONSI were prepared in accordance with NEPA and implementing regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508 and NOAA Administrative Order 216-6.

#### **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act**

Pursuant to section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS conducted an essential fish habitat consultation on its decision to partially approve the States' application. NMFS determined that lethal removal activities would not result in adverse effects to freshwater EFH for Chinook and coho salmon.

Dated: March 17, 2008.

**James H. Lecky,**

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

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#### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

##### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XG21**

##### **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of cancellation of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has canceled its Shrimp Advisory Panel (AP) meeting via conference call.

**DATES:** The Shrimp AP conference call will not be held March 31, 2008 at 10 a.m. e.s.t.

**ADDRESSES:** *Meeting address:* The meeting was to be held via conference call and listening stations are no longer available. For specific locations see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rick Leard, Deputy Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-348-1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf Council has canceled the conference call meeting of the Shrimp AP. The meeting published at 73 FR 13211, March 12, 2008, and it will not be rescheduled.

Dated: March 19, 2008.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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#### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

##### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN: 0648-XG55**

##### **Fisheries of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC); Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will