

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Institute of Standards and Technology****Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction (ACEHR or Committee), will hold a meeting on Friday, January 23, 2009 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). The primary purpose of this meeting is to review and approve the Committee's draft NEHRP reauthorization letter to the Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC). The draft letter will be posted on the NEHRP Web site at <http://nehrrp.gov/>. Interested members of the public will be able to participate in the meeting from remote locations by calling into a central phone number.

**DATES:** The ACEHR will hold a meeting on Friday, January 23, 2009, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). The meeting will be open to the public. Interested parties may participate in the meeting from their remote location.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions regarding the meeting should be sent to National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8630, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8630. For instructions on how to participate in the meeting, please see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Jack Hayes, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8630, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8630. Dr. Hayes' e-mail address is [jack.hayes@nist.gov](mailto:jack.hayes@nist.gov) and his phone number is (301) 975-5640.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee was established in accordance with the requirements of Section 103 of the NEHRP Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-360). The Committee is composed of 15 members appointed by the Director of NIST, who were selected for their technical expertise and experience, established records of distinguished professional service, and their knowledge of issues affecting the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. In addition, the Chairperson of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC) serves in an ex-officio capacity on the Committee. The Committee assesses:

- Trends and developments in the science and engineering of earthquake hazards reduction;
- The effectiveness of NEHRP in performing its statutory activities (improved design and construction methods and practices; land use controls and redevelopment; prediction techniques and early-warning systems; coordinated emergency preparedness plans; and public education and involvement programs);
- Any need to revise NEHRP; and
- The management, coordination, implementation, and activities of NEHRP.

Background information on NEHRP and the Advisory Committee is available at <http://nehrrp.gov/>.

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction (ACEHR) will hold a meeting on Friday, January 23, 2009, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). There will be no central meeting location. The public is invited to participate in the meeting by calling in from remote locations. The primary purpose of this meeting is to review and approve the Committee's draft NEHRP reauthorization letter to the Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC). The draft letter will be posted on the NEHRP Web site at <http://nehrrp.gov/>.

Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to offer comments and suggestions related to the Committee's affairs are invited to request detailed instructions on how to dial in from a remote location to participate in the meeting. Approximately fifteen minutes will be reserved from 4:45 p.m.-5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) for public comments, and speaking times will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The amount of time per speaker will be determined by the number of requests received, but is likely to be about 3 minutes each. Questions from the public will not be considered during this period. Speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated, and those who were unable to participate are invited to submit written statements to the ACEHR, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 8630, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8630, via fax at (301) 975-5433,

or electronically by e-mail to [info@nehrrp.gov](mailto:info@nehrrp.gov).

All participants of the meeting are required to pre-register to be admitted. Anyone wishing to participate must register by close of business Friday, January 16, 2009, in order to be admitted. Please submit your name, time of participation, e-mail address, and phone number to Tina Faecke. At the time of registration, participants will be provided with detailed instructions on how to dial in from a remote location in order to participate. Non-U.S. citizens must also submit their country of citizenship, title, employer/sponsor, and address with their registration. Ms. Faecke's e-mail address is [cookie@nist.gov](mailto:cookie@nist.gov), and her phone number is (301) 975-5911.

Dated: January 6, 2009.

**Patrick Gallagher,**

*Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. E9-218 Filed 1-8-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-13-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Designation of Fishery Management Council Members and Application for Reinstatement of State Authority**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before March 10, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to William Chappell, (301) 713-2337 or [William.Chappell@noaa.gov](mailto:William.Chappell@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) provides for the nomination for members of Fishery Management Councils by state governors and Indian treaty tribes, for the designation of a principal state fishery official who will perform duties under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and for a request by a state for reinstatement of state authority over a managed fishery. Nominees must provide the governor or tribe with the background documentation which is then submitted to NOAA with the nomination. The information submitted with these actions will be used to ensure that the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act are met.

**II. Method of Collection**

Information is submitted on paper documents.

**III. Data**

OMB Control Number: 0648-0314.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: State, local or tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 275.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour to designate a principal state fishery official(s); 80 hours for a nomination for a Council appointment; 16 hours for background documentation for nominees; and 1 hour for a request to reinstate state authority.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,607.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$800 (recordkeeping/reporting costs).

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection;

they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 6, 2008.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-161 Filed 1-8-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

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

RIN 0648-XM61

**Marine Mammals; File No. 1128-1922**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Eduardo Mercado III, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, 350 Park Hall, University at Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, New York, 14260, has been issued a permit to conduct research on humpback whales (*Megaptera novaengliae*).

**ADDRESSES:** The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

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 Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701; phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Amy Hapeman or Carrie Hubard, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 21, 2007, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 46610) that a request for a scientific research permit to take humpback whales, 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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Dr. Mercado is authorized a five-year scientific research permit to conduct acoustic playback sessions in the

presence of humpback whales and approach animals to record whale songs in the coastal waters of Puerto Rico. The purpose of this research is to develop methods for testing the hearing and auditory perceptual capabilities of humpback whales in order to better predict when anthropogenic sounds may interfere with social behaviors, particularly mating and group feeding. Up to 200 humpback whales may be harassed by playback experiments (active acoustics) three times per year and up to 30 additional humpbacks may be harassed by close approach during vessel surveys for passive acoustic recordings annually. In addition, up to 5 humpback whales, 45 Stenellid dolphins (*Stenella* spp.), 45 common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), 45 bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), and 5 Cuvier's beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*) may be incidentally harassed up to three times annually during playback sessions.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an environmental assessment was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities. After a Finding of No Significant Impact, the determination was made that it was not necessary to prepare an 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: January 2, 2009.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. E9-234 Filed 1-8-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

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

RIN: 0648-XM57

**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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Allocation Committee