

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Daniel P. Costa, Ph.D., Department of Biology and Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064 has been issued an amendment to Permit No. 87-1851-00.

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:

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 18, 2008, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 68416) that a request for an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 87-1851-00 had been submitted 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 amended permit (No. 87-1851-01) expands the study area for tagging studies and physiological research on Antarctic seals to include the Weddell Sea. The permit amendment expires on January 31, 2012.

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: January 14, 2009.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E9-1518 Filed 1-23-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XM91

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); 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 (Council), its Protected Resources Committee, its Annual Catch Limit/Accountability Measures (ACL/AM) Committee, its Law Enforcement Committee, its Research Set-Aside (RSA) Committee, its Ecosystems/Ocean Planning Committee, its Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Committee, its Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee, and its Executive Committee will hold public meetings.

DATES: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 through Friday, February 13, 2009. On Wednesday, February 11 the Protected Resources Committee with its Advisors will meet from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The ACL/AM Committee will meet from 10:30 a.m. until noon. The Law Enforcement Committee will meet from 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. The RSA Committee will meet from 2:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. The Ecosystems/Ocean Planning Committee will meet from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. There will be a scoping session for Amendment 14 to the Surfclam/Ocean Quahog FMP on Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

On Thursday, February 12 the Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Committee will meet from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. The Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Committee will meet from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. The Council will convene at 10:00 a.m. and from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. will conduct its regular business session and receive organizational reports. From 11:00 a.m. until noon, the Council will receive a report regarding annual discards for 2008 and standardized bycatch reporting methodology prioritization for 2009. From 1:00 p.m. until 1:15 p.m. there will be an award presentation and recognition. From 1:15 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. the Council will receive a report on the Northeast Data Poor Stocks Workshop. From 2:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. there will be a public workshop on reducing butterfly bycatch in the Loligo fishery. On Friday, February 13 the Executive Committee will meet from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. From 10:00

a.m. until noon the Council will receive a report on Status of Fishery Management Plans, the Executive Director's Report, Committee Reports, Liaison Report and discuss any continuing and new business.

ADDRESSES: Seaview Marriott Resort and Spa, 401 South New York Road, Galloway, NJ 08205; telephone: 609-652-1800.

Council Address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New St., Room 2115, 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 ext. 19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items by day for the Council's Committees and the Council itself are: Wednesday, February 11 - the Protected Resources Committee with Advisors will discuss an industry request to modify the Bottle Nose Dolphin Take Reduction Team (TRT) Plan by adding one month to the current "tending requirement" period for medium gillnet fisheries and review and discuss Atlantic Trawl TRT strategy for pilot whales and common dolphin. The ACL/AM Committee will review and discuss the NMFS' Final Rule on ACL/AM, review and discuss table of current Council control rules, and address the action plan and associated timeline for implementation. The Law Enforcement Committee will discuss regulatory implications of transfer-at-sea authorizations, discuss regulatory implication of monitoring other than a daily trip limit in party/charter boat fisheries, and address implication of Maine's study/report on fixed gear vertical line locations and densities. The RSA Committee will convene a public fact finding and receive comments on the Council's RSA program. The Ecosystems/Ocean Planning Committee will receive a report on the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's (NEFSC) recent efforts regarding development of an ecosystem based approach to fishery management and develop the Committee's work plan for 2009. An evening scoping session for Amendment 14 to the Surfclam/Ocean Quahog FMP will be held to solicit the public's ideas about needed changes to the FMP.

Thursday, February 12 - the Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Committee will review and discuss scoping comments to decide and adopt management measures to be included in Amendment 14. The Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Committee will review and discuss the outcome of the January Committee

meeting to determine and select (if possible) preferred alternatives for Council consideration and inclusion in the Public Hearing document for Amendment 11. The Council will convene for its regular business session to receive various reports including a report by Dr. Rago (NMFS NEFSC) on "Annual Discard Report for 2008 and the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Prioritization for 2009" and a report by Dr. Weinberg (NMFS NEFSC) on the outcome of the Northeast Data Poor Workshop which included scup and black sea bass among others, the Council will also present its Fisheries Achievement Award. A public workshop will be held in the afternoon to encourage early adoption of voluntary fishing practices to reduce butterfish bycatch in the Loligo squid fishery. Discussion items will include: potential effects of implementation of Amendment 10 which would establish a butterfish bycatch mortality cap for the Loligo squid fishery in 2011, possible mitigation actions to avoid future closures of the Loligo fishery owing to attainment of the butterfish mortality cap. Current Loligo fishing practices will be reviewed with the intent to identify practices that contribute to butterfish bycatch. Information and data will be presented as catalysts for discussion purposes regarding problem identification and possible solutions. Friday, February 13 - the Executive Committee will review the outcome of the State-Federal Alignment Work Group meeting, receive results from Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) actions, and review the agenda for the Council Coordination Committee. The Council will receive a report on Status of MAFMC's FMPs, the Executive Director's report, Committee reports, and any continuing and new business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, these 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 Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address such emergencies.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M.

Jan Bryan (302-674-2331 ext 18) at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 21, 2009

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E9-1570 Filed 1-23-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XM89

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a three-day Council meeting on February 9-11, 2009 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, February 9 beginning at 9:00 a.m., and Tuesday, February 10 and Wednesday, February 11, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431-2300; fax: (603) 433-5649. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone (978) 465-0492.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Monday, February 9, 2009

Following introductions and any announcements, the Council will receive a series of brief reports from the Council Chairman and Executive Director, the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA General Counsel, representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, as well as NOAA Enforcement. Presentations will be provided to the Council on the recent Data Poor Stocks Workshop and the

Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology annual report. For the latter, NMFS will solicit recommendations from the Council concerning the prioritization of observer coverage. The Council's Herring Committee will report during the afternoon session and review progress to date on the development of management alternatives for Amendment 4 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The focus of the action is catch monitoring, but measures also will address annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs).

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

The meeting will begin with a brief overview of the NMFS final rule concerning procedures and voting eligibility requirements for referenda on Individual Fishing Quota program proposals in accordance with the new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Time will then be allocated to discuss the NMFS Secretarial Interim Action for the Northeast Multispecies fishery, to be followed by discussion and approval of Draft Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP and it accompanying Environmental Impact Statement for review at public hearings.

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

The last day of the Council meeting will begin with, in the following order, possible consideration and approval of revisions to several Council operating policies, a review of recent experimental fishery permit applications and an open comment period during which any interested party may address the Council about fishery management related issues that are otherwise not listed on the agenda. These items will be followed by an overview of the NMFS final rule containing guidance on how to comply with the new annual catch limit (ACL) and accountability measure (AM) requirements in fishery management plans. Prior to a lunch break, the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will provide advice on the adequacy of the analyses that could form the basis of Amendment 3 to the Northeast Skate Complex FMP and Amendment 15 to the Scallop FMP. Council consideration of skate management measures will follow with a decision on whether to develop final alternatives for further consideration by the Council or to develop new management measures, based on the receipt of new as well as updated information. The Scallop Committee will ask the Council for approval of a range of alternatives under consideration for Amendment 15 to the Scallop FMP for purposes of completing