

1. Golden tilefish in the bottom longline and hook-and-line fisheries.

2. Black sea bass in the pot fishery. Currently, there is no limit to the number of pot tags issued to fishermen who target black sea bass or the number of pots that can be fished. Fishermen may be leaving large numbers of pots fishing for multiple days due to vessel or weather problems, and these pots could unnecessarily kill many black sea bass. The Council is further concerned that in the gag recreational fishery, fishermen in some areas could have an advantage and catch part of the allowable catch sooner than those in other areas.

Additionally, in Amendment 18 the Council may consider modifying the individual transferable quota (ITQ) program currently in place for the South Atlantic wreckfish fishery to conform with the Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements on holding excessive shares in a LAP program. Furthermore, the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires periodic reviews of LAP programs, and if needed, allows for modifications to meet the goals of the program.

Following publication of this NOI, the Council will conduct public scoping meetings to determine the range of issues to be addressed in the DEIS and the associated Amendment 18. A **Federal Register** notice will announce the availability of the DEIS associated with this amendment, as well as a 45-day public comment period, pursuant to regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and to NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6. The Council will consider public comments received on the DEIS in developing the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), and before voting to submit the final amendment to NMFS for Secretarial review, approval, and implementation. NMFS will announce in the **Federal Register** the availability of the final amendment and FEIS for public review during the Secretarial review period, and will consider all public comments prior to final agency action to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the final amendment.

Scoping Meetings, Times, and Locations

All meetings will begin at 3 p.m. In addition to Amendment 18, the Council intends to scope additional amendments at this series of meetings. Separate NOIs will be prepared for each amendment. The meetings will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for information packets or for sign language interpretation or other

auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Monday, January 26, 2009—Hilton Garden Inn, 5265 International Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29418; phone: 843-308-9330.

Tuesday, January 27, 2009—Bridge Point Hotel, 101 Howell Road, New Bern, NC 28582; phone: 252-636-3637.

Tuesday, February 3, 2009—Key Largo Grande, 97000 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037; phone: 305-852-5553.

Wednesday, February 4, 2009—Doubletree Hotel, 2080 N. Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931; phone: 321-783-9222.

Thursday, February 5, 2009—Mighty Eight Air Force Museum, 175 Bourne Avenue, Pooler, GA 31322; phone: 912-748-8888.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: January 22, 2009.

Alan D. Risenhoover

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

[FR Doc. E9-1730 Filed 1-27-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XM82

Marine Mammals; File No. 14142

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Niladri Basu, Ph.D., Department of Environmental Health Sciences, University of Michigan, 109 South Observatory Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2029, has applied in due form for a permit to import marine mammal parts for scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before February 27, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the Features box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov/index.cfm>, and then selecting File No. 14142 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available 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 Northeast Region, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone (978)281-9300; fax (978)281-9333.

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. 14142.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Skidmore or Amy Sloan, (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 applicant is requesting a permit to authorize the importation of samples opportunistically obtained from colleagues at the National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) of Denmark (Roskilde, Denmark). The applicant is requesting authorization to import tissues (brain, liver, muscle, kidney, skin) from up to 100 individuals (hunter-killed, stranded) from each of the following species from Greenland, Faroe Islands, and Denmark: ringed seals (*Phoca hispida*), pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*), hooded seal (*Cystopora cristata*), harp seal (*Pagophilus groenlandicus*), narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*), beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*), harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*), grey seal (*Haliocherus grypus*). No takes of live animals would be authorized under this permit and there would be no non-target species taken incidentally under this

permit. A permit is requested for a five-year period.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

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: January 16, 2009.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E9-1729 Filed 1-27-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XM92

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Interspecies Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; Telephone: (508)339-2200; Fax:(508) 339-1040.

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 items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

(1) The Committee will discuss management plan integration - How to possibly combine species managed

under current fishery management plans (FMPs) into broader units under fewer FMPs.

(2) They will also discuss a process for changing specifications for multiple species caught in fisheries managed under annual catch limits (ACLs) in different FMPs.

(3) There will also be a discussion of options to address the yellowtail flounder incidental catch by scallop vessels as it affects the scallop access areas in New England.

(4) The Committee will also finalize Council comments on priorities for 2009 observer coverage under the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology.

(5) Other business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified 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

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: January 23, 2009.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E9-1780 Filed 1-27-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2008-0063]

Request for Comments and Notice of Roundtable on Deferred Examination for Patent Applications

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) frequently receives suggestions that the USPTO adopt a deferral of examination

procedure. The USPTO is conducting a roundtable to obtain public input from diverse sources to determine whether the support expressed for deferral of examination is isolated or whether there is general support in the patent community and/or the public sector generally for the adoption of some type of deferral of examination. The roundtable is open to the public. Members of the public who wish to participate in the roundtable must do so by request, as the number of participants in the roundtable is limited to ensure that all who are speaking will have a meaningful chance to do so. Members of the public who wish solely to observe need not submit a request. Any member of the public may submit written comments on issues raised at the roundtable or on any issue pertaining to deferral of examination.

DATES: The roundtable will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2009, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m.

The deadline for receipt of requests to participate in the roundtable is 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2009.

The deadline for receipt of written comments is February 26, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The roundtable will be held in at the USPTO, in the Madison Auditorium on the concourse level of the Madison Building, which is located at 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

Requests to participate at the roundtable are required and must be submitted by electronic mail message through the Internet to robert.bahr@uspto.gov. Requests to participate at the roundtable should indicate the following information: (1) the name of the person desiring to participate and his or her contact information (telephone number and electronic mail address); and (2) the organization(s) he or she represents.

Written comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to

AC6comments@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of Robert W. Bahr. Although comments may be submitted by mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via the Internet.

The written comments and list of the roundtable participants and their associations will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, located in Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and will be available via the USPTO Internet Web