

Please include "File No. 15510" in the subject line of the e-mail comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan or Laura Morse, (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.*), 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 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant proposes to obtain samples from up to 50 animals annually of each of the following species: Harp seal, *Pagophilus groenlandica*; hooded seal, *Cystophora cristata*; gray seal, *Halichoerus grypus*; bearded seal, *Erignathus barbatus*; ringed seal, *Phoca hispida*; harbor seal, *Phoca vitulina*; spotted seal, *Phoca largha*; and ribbon seal, *Phoca fasciata*. The applicant also proposes to import samples annually from up to 6 captive Northern fur seals, *Callorhinus ursinus*; and 6 captive Steller Sea lions, *Eumetopias jubatus*. Samples will be from animals taken for subsistence harvest in Alaska, and taken during scientific and/or subsistence collections including but not limited to the national waters of Canada, Norway, and the United Kingdom, and in international waters. Samples may be received, imported and exported from any country worldwide over a five-year period. The purpose of the proposed research is to study the physiological development of pinnipeds including the development of thermoregulation, muscle performance characteristics, tissue oxygen stores, and hormonal and other regulatory factors in tissues.

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 the

application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: January 19, 2011.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2011-1359 Filed 1-21-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA170

Fisheries of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico; South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) will hold a meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) Social and Economic Subpanel to review the Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper Evaluation, review draft Regulatory Amendment 9 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan for the South Atlantic addressing commercial trip limits, discuss snapper grouper and golden crab draft catch share amendments, discuss the development of annual advisory panel reports, and discuss methodologies for predicting future catch levels for use in amendment analyses. The meeting will be held in North Charleston, SC. *See*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

DATES: The meeting will be held February 15-16, 2011. *See*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza, 4831 Tanger Outlet Boulevard, North Charleston, SC 29418; telephone: (1-877) 747-7301 or (843) 744-4422; fax: (843) 740-7029.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; telephone: (843) 571-4366; e-mail: Kim.Iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorized Act, the SSC is the body responsible for reviewing the Council's scientific materials. The SSC Social and Economic Subpanel will review and discuss social

and economic analyses and provide recommendations to the Council regarding those analyses.

SAFMC SSC Social and Economic Subpanel Meeting Schedule:

February 15, 2011: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and February 16, 2011: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The SSC's Social and Economics Panel members will provide the SSC with a report regarding their guidance on the agenda items discussed.

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 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 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

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (*see ADDRESSES*) at least 3 business days prior to the meeting.

Dated: January 19, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2011-1341 Filed 1-21-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA131

National Saltwater Angler Registry Program

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NMFS has designated the States of Maine, Florida and Louisiana as exempted States for anglers, spear fishers and for-hire fishing vessels. NMFS has designated the States of Massachusetts, Maryland and Virginia as exempted States for anglers and spear fishers.

DATES: The designation of the States as exempted States is effective on January 24, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Gordon C. Colvin, Fishery Biologist, NMFS ST-12453, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gordon C. Colvin, Fishery Biologist; (301) 713-2367 x175; e-mail: Gordon.Colvin@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final rule implementing the National Saltwater Angler Registry Program, 50 CFR part 600 subpart P, was published in the **Federal Register** on December 30, 2008. The final rule requires persons who are angling, spear fishing or operating a for-hire fishing vessel in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone or for anadromous species to register annually with NOAA. However, persons who are licensed or registered by, or State residents who are not required to register or hold a license issued by, a State that is designated as an exempted State are not required to register with NOAA. The final rule sets forth the requirements for States to be designated as exempted States. Generally, exempted States must agree to provide to NMFS names, addresses, dates of birth and telephone numbers of the persons licensed or registered under a qualifying State license and/or registry program, or to provide catch and effort data from a qualifying regional survey of recreational fishing, and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with NMFS to formalize the data reporting agreement.

NMFS has received proposals for providing license/registry data from the States listed below, has determined that the States' programs qualify for exempted State designation under the provisions of the final rule, and has entered into Memoranda of Agreement with each of the States. Therefore, pursuant to 50 CFR 600.1415(b)(3), notice is hereby given that the following States are designated as exempted States under 50 CFR 600.1415: Maine, Florida, and Louisiana. Persons who hold a valid fishing license or registration issued by these exempted States for angling, spear fishing or operating a for-hire fishing vessel in tidal waters are not required to register with NOAA under 50 CFR 600.1405(b). Persons who are residents of these exempted States who are not required to hold a fishing license, or to be registered to fish under the laws of these exempted States, also are not required to register with NOAA. Further, pursuant to 50 CFR 600.1415(b)(3), notice is hereby given that the following States are designated as exempted States only for anglers and spear fishers: Massachusetts, Maryland, and Virginia. Massachusetts, Maryland,

and Virginia were previously designated as exempted States for for-hire fishing vessels. Persons who hold a valid license or registration issued by these exempted States for angling or spear fishing in tidal waters are not required to register with NOAA under 50 CFR 600.1405(b). Persons who are residents of these exempted States who are not required to hold a fishing license, or to be registered to fish under the laws of these exempted States, also are not required to register with NOAA.

Dated: January 18, 2011.

Eric C. Schwaab,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2011-1368 Filed 1-21-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA157

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Exploration Drilling Programs in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, AK

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

ACTION: Notice; non-issuance of incidental harassment authorizations.

SUMMARY: On April 19, 2010, and May 7, 2010, NMFS published notices of proposed Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHAs) for the take of small numbers of marine mammals, by harassment, by Shell Offshore Inc. (Shell) incidental to offshore exploration drilling on Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leases in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, Alaska, during July through October, 2010. Notice is hereby given that these IHAs were not issued, and Shell did not conduct the proposed exploration drilling programs in 2010.

ADDRESSES: The applications related to this action are available by writing to Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation, and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, by telephoning the contact listed here, or online at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm>. Documents cited in this notice may be viewed, by appointment,

during regular business hours, at the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Candace Nachman, NMFS, 301-713-2289 ext. 156.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 18, 2010, and April 14, 2010, NMFS received revised IHA applications from Shell requesting the take of several species of marine mammals, by Level B harassment, incidental to conducting an exploration drilling program on OCS leases in Camden Bay, Beaufort Sea, Alaska, and offshore OCS leases in the Chukchi Sea, respectively, during the 2010 open-water season. NMFS published notices of proposed IHA along with 30-day public comment periods in the **Federal Register** on April 19, 2010 (74 FR 20482) for the Beaufort Sea request and May 7, 2010 (74 FR 25730) for the Chukchi Sea request.

On May 27, 2010, following the April 20, 2010, Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the Department of the Interior (DOI) announced a suspension of proposed exploration drilling in the U.S. Arctic and that DOI would postpone consideration of Shell's exploration drilling requests for the 2010 open-water season. Since no permits were issued to Shell by DOI to conduct the exploration drilling programs during the 2010 open-water season, NMFS did not issue IHAs to Shell for these two proposed programs.

In November 2010, Shell sent two letters to NMFS regarding the 2010 IHA requests. Regarding the proposed Beaufort Sea program, Shell indicated that they intend to move forward with the exploration drilling program in Camden Bay during the 2011 open-water season. Therefore, Shell requested that NMFS continue processing the pending 2010 IHA request. NMFS has requested additional information from Shell. Until this information is received, NMFS cannot consider the 2011 IHA request complete. Once a completeness determination is made for the Beaufort Sea exploration drilling program, NMFS will proceed with publication of a new notice of proposed IHA and request for public comments.

Regarding the proposed Chukchi Sea program, Shell indicated that because of ongoing litigation with the Chukchi Sea Lease Sale 193 planning area, they have had to defer their Chukchi Sea Exploration Plan. Therefore, Shell requested that NMFS suspend further consideration and action of Shell's Chukchi Sea program. Shell will inform NMFS at such time that they intend to move forward with their Chukchi Sea exploration drilling program. If and when Shell informs NMFS that their