

passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, anesthetizing, and handling of fish. Permit 16318 does not authorize any intentional lethal take of ESA-listed salmonids. Permit 16318 authorizes unintentional lethal take of juvenile ESA-listed salmonids associated with research activities not to exceed one percent of the annual total expected take for each species associated with electrofishing and not to exceed two percent of the annual total expected take associated with beach seining and marking/tagging procedures. Permit 16318 expires on December 31, 2016.

Dated: September 29, 2011.

**Angela Somma,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2011-25558 Filed 10-3-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XA745**

#### 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) Groundfish Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 9:30 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.

*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 agenda are:

The Committee and Advisory Panel will review gear stowage regulations. There will be a request for comments on vessel and gear marking. There will be an open comment period for the fishing industry, concerning Compliance and Effectiveness of Regulations for New

England Fishery Management Plans. The Committee and Panel will comment on draft NOAA Enforcement Priority Setting Process. Some of the actions that the Committee and Panel may be asked to review are: Scallop management measures (Framework 24 and Amendment 16); Herring Amendment 5 management measures-preliminary review; Hake (Whiting) incidental possession limits when Total Allowable Landings are reached; Skate species identification at sea and at the dock. They also plan to schedule meetings for next year. Other business may be 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 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: September 28, 2011.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2011-25419 Filed 10-3-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XA599**

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 16094

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

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

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, AK to conduct research on marine mammals.

**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) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376; and

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tammy Adams or Joselyd Garcia-Reyes, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On July 29, 2011, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 45514) that a request for a permit to conduct research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) throughout their range in Alaska, including Southeast Alaska, Gulf of Alaska, and Bering Sea, had been submitted by the above-named applicant. 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.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The permitted takes include aerial surveys for population census and radio tracking; ground surveys for photo-identification, counts and behavioral observations; vessel approaches of animals equipped with telemetry equipment; vessel surveys for radio tracking; and capture by entanglement in a net in the water or by hoop net or dip net on land. Captured animals will: be restrained (chemical or physical); be weighed and measured; have biological samples collected (blood, milk (lactating females), blubber, skin, muscle, hair, mucus membrane swabs, stomach lavage, tooth and vibrissae); be administered deuterated water; have measurement of blubber via ultrasound; be marked with flipper identification tags; and have internal (PIT tags) or external scientific instruments attached. Tissue samples will be collected from subsistence harvested animals and other mortalities and some samples will be exported to Canada for analysis. The permit is valid through December 31, 2016.

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.