

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These hearings are being scheduled in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. During or after these hearings, additional opportunities for comments on the Amendment 5 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) may be provided in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The agenda for the following eight hearings is as follows: NEFMC staff will brief the public on the herring amendment prior to opening the hearing for public comments. The schedule is as follows:

Amendment 5 Public Hearings: Locations, Schedules, and Agendas

1. *Friday, March 2, 2012 from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.*; Samoset Hotel, 220 Warrenton Street, Rockport, ME 04856; telephone: (207) 594-2511.

2. *Wednesday, March 14, 2012 from 7 p.m.–9 p.m.*; Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries Annisquam River Station, 30 Emerson Ave., Gloucester, MA 01930; telephone: (978) 282-0308.

3. *Thursday, March 15, 2012 from 7 p.m.–9 p.m.*; Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431-2300.

4. *Monday, March 19, 2012 from 7 p.m.–9 p.m.*; Seaport Inn, 100 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719; telephone: (508) 997-1281.

5. *Wednesday, March 21, 2012 from 7 p.m.–9 p.m.*; Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME, 04101; telephone: (207) 775-2311.

6. *Tuesday, March 27, 2012 from 7 p.m.–9 p.m.*; Radisson Plymouth, 180 Water St., Plymouth, MA 02360; telephone: (508) 747-4900.

7. *Wednesday, March 28, 2012 from 7 p.m.–9 p.m.*; Hilton Garden Inn, One Thurber St., Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 734-9600.

8. *Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 7 p.m.–9 p.m.*; Congress Hall, 251 Beach Ave., Cape May, NJ 08204; telephone: (609) 884-8421.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are 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 working days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 10, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-3557 Filed 2-14-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB07

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene its Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (LEAP) in conjunction with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Law Enforcement Committee (LEC).

DATES: The meeting will convene at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 and conclude no later than 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Marriott Courtyard Gulfport Beachfront Hotel, 1600 East Beach Blvd., Gulfport, MS 39501.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Deputy Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel along with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Law Enforcement Committee to consider the status of recently completed amendments and other regulatory actions as well as the scheduled completion of ongoing actions. The two groups will also receive a presentation regarding issues related to the Gulf Council's Individual Fishing Quota Programs and discuss the National Center for Disaster Fraud/Gulf Coast. They will review the status of Joint Enforcement Agreements and enforcement efforts by the states under these agreements. The LEAP/LEC will also consider having a Summer Work Session to develop a 2013-16 Strategic Plan and a 2013-14 Operations Plan.

Finally, the group will discuss Gulf seafood trace and trip ticket enforcement and receive reports of the state and federal members. Other activities related to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program and Law Enforcement Summary will also be discussed.

The Law Enforcement Advisory Panel consists of principal law enforcement officers in each of the Gulf States, as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the U.S. Coast Guard, and the NOAA General Counsel for Law Enforcement. A copy of the agenda and related materials can be obtained by calling the Council office at (813) 348-1630.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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 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 Kathy Pereira at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: February 10, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-3558 Filed 2-14-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Seats for the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The ONMS is seeking applications for the following vacant seats on the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: Sport diving and charter/commercial fishing. Applicants are chosen based upon their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying; community and professional affiliations; philosophy regarding the protection and management of marine resources; and possibly the length of residence in the area affected by the sanctuary. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve 3-year terms, pursuant to the council's Charter.

DATES: Applications are due by March 30, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Becky Shortland, Council Coordinator (becky.shortland@noaa.gov, 10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, GA 31411; 912-598-2381). Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Becky Shortland, Council Coordinator (becky.shortland@noaa.gov, 10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, GA 31411; 912-598-2381).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The sanctuary advisory council was established in August 1999 to provide advice and recommendations on management and protection of the sanctuary. The advisory council, through its members, also serves as liaison to the community regarding sanctuary issues and represents community interests, concerns, and management needs to the sanctuary and NOAA.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. Sections 1431, et seq. (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Daniel J. Basta,

Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2012-3465 Filed 2-14-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA941

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; St. George Reef Light Station Restoration and Maintenance at Northwest Seal Rock, Del Norte County, CA

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of an incidental take authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to the St. George Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society (SGRLPS) to take marine mammals, by Level B harassment only, incidental to conducting aircraft operations, and lighthouse renovation and light maintenance activities on the St. George Reef Light Station on Northwest Seal Rock (NWSR) in the northeast Pacific Ocean, from the period of February 10, 2012, through April 30, 2012, or during the period of November 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012.

DATES: This authorization is effective from February 10, 2012, through April 30, 2012, and during the period of November 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the IHA and application are available by writing to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. An electronic copy of the application containing a list of the references used in this document may be obtained by writing to the above address, telephoning the contact listed here (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) or visiting the internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications>. The following associated documents are also available at the same internet address: Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by NMFS; and the finding of no significant impact (FONSI). Documents cited in this notice may be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours, at the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeannine Cody, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401 or Monica DeAngelis, NMFS Southwest Regional Office, (562) 980-3232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce to authorize, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking by harassment of small numbers of marine mammals of a species or population stock, by United States citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental taking of small numbers of marine mammals shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant). The authorization must set forth the permissible methods of taking, other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species or stock and its habitat, and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings. NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as " * * * an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival."

Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA establishes an expedited process by which citizens of the United States can apply for an authorization to incidentally take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment. Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA establishes a 45-day time limit for NMFS' review of an application followed by a 30-day public notice and comment period on any proposed authorizations for the incidental harassment of small numbers of marine mammals. Within 45 days of the close of the public comment period, NMFS must either issue or deny the authorization. NMFS must publish a notice in the **Federal Register** within 30 days of its determination to issue or deny the authorization.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA