

Dated: March 6, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-5795 Filed 3-8-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB073

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 (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), on March 28, 2012, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 8 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Providence Biltmore Hotel, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 421-0700; fax: (401) 455-3050.

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 NEFMC's Scientific and Statistical Committee will:

- Review the paper, "An Investigation of Differences Amongst SCAA and ASAP Assessment (including Reference Point) Estimates for Gulf of Maine Cod" by Dr. Butterworth and Rebecca Rademeyer and advise the Council on its applicability to management reference points and stock assessments for Gulf of Maine cod;
- Discuss the performance of projections for groundfish stocks based on the February 2012 groundfish assessment updates;
- Review assessments and develop ABC recommendations for the Council for redfish, Georges Bank haddock, Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank windowpane flounder, Southern New England/Mid-

Atlantic windowpane flounder, ocean pout, wolffish and halibut; and
d. Other business may be discussed.

The public is invited to participate in the SSC meeting via webinar. For online access to the meeting, please reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/45053222>.

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 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, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: March 6, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB071

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and its advisory committees.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will hold public meetings, March 26 through April 3, 2012.

DATES: The meetings will be held March 26 through April 3, 2012. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Witherell, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 28 continuing through Tuesday, April 1. Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, March 26 and continue through Friday, March 30. The Scientific Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 26 and continue through Wednesday, March 28. The Halibut Implementation Committee will meet March 26 at 4 p.m. The Ecosystem Committee will meet March 27, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The Enforcement Committee will meet March 27 at 1 p.m.-4 p.m. All meetings are open to the public, except executive sessions.

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

Reports:

- Executive Director's Report
NMFS Management Report (incl. report on observer program implementation)
Alaska Department of Fish & Game Report
NOAA Enforcement Report
United States Coast Guard Report
United States Fish & Wildlife Service Report
Protected Species Report (including review of Steller Sea Lion (SSL) Notice of Intent for Environmental Impact Statement)

- Cooperative Reports: Receive Amendment 80 Cooperative Reports; Receive Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Rockfish Cooperative Reports; Receive American Fisheries Act (AFA) Pollock Cooperative and Incentive Program Agreements (IPA) Reports.

- Bering Sea Aleutian Island (BSAI) Chum Salmon Bycatch: Update on salmon genetics (T); Initial review of chum salmon bycatch measures.

- Habitat Conservation Issues: Initial Review of Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) skate sites; Final action on Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Flatfish Trawl Sweep Modification; Review Bering Sea (BS) Habitat Conservation Area boundary; Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation criteria: Ecosystem Committee Report.

5. Halibut Issues: Final action to allow Area 4B fish-up; Review Catch Share Plan(CSP) and action as necessary;

6. Scallop Stock Assessment Fishery Evaluation report (SAFE): Approve 2012/13 Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and Overfishing Level (OFL) harvest specifications.

7. GOA Pacific Cod: Updated discussion paper on Pacific Cod jig management (reverse parallel); Discussion paper on limiting other gear on jig vessels; Discussion paper on GOA Pacific cod A-season opening dates.

8. Miscellaneous Issues: Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Program (BSIERP) Management Strategy Evaluation report; Discussion paper on Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) use and requirements; Programmatic Groundfish Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS); Public workshop and SSC evaluation only; Report from the BSAI Crab Right of First Refusal (ROFR) Workgroup; Tanner crab model review (SSC only); Review GOA pollock Exempted Fishery Permit (EFP) (T).

9. Staff Tasking: Review Committees and tasking.

10. Other Business

The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

1. BSAI Salmon Chum Bycatch
2. Scallop SAFE
3. Initial Review of Skates
4. Review Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Area Boundary
5. BSIERP Management Strategy Evaluation report
6. Groundfish Programmatic SEIS (public workshop and SSC evaluation)
7. Tanner crab model review
8. Review GOA Pollock EFP

The Advisory Panel will address most of the same agenda issues as the Council except B reports. The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/>

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. 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 Gail Bendixen at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 6, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-5739 Filed 3-8-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[File No. 15844]

RIN 0648-XB065

Marine Mammals

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 Glacier Bay National Park and Reserve (Responsible Party: Susan Boudreau; Principal Investigator: Christine Gabriele), Gustavus, AK 99826 to conduct research on humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*).

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation 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: Joselyd Garcia-Reyes or Carrie Hubbard, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 27, 2011, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 30919) that a request for a permit to conduct research on humpback whales, killer whales, and minke whales 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.*), 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.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Permit No. 15844 authorizes Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve to conduct passive acoustics, videography, photo-identification surveys, biopsy sampling, and collect sloughed skin and/or feces to study humpback whales, killer whales and minke whales. Research would occur around southeastern Alaska especially in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Up to 6300 humpback whales, 500 killer whales, and 20 minke whales could be harassed each year during photo-identification surveys. Additionally, humpback whales and the three killer whale ecotypes could be harassed up to 50 times each, to acquire 30 successful biopsy samples, per year. The permit is valid through February 28, 2017.

An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities on the human environment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Based on the analyses in the EA, NMFS determined that issuance of the permit would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and that preparation of an environmental impact statement was not required. That determination is documented in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed on February 24, 2012.

As required by the ESA, issuance of this permit was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: March 5, 2012.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-5809 Filed 3-8-12; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled.