

on spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*).

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before April 25, 2012.

ADDRESSES: These documents are also available 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

Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm. 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808) 944-2200; fax (808) 973-2941.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation 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: Carrie Hubard or Kristy Beard, (301) 427-8401.

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 authorization to film spinner dolphins near Midway Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. Dolphins would be approached during morning and late afternoon when they are typically active, but would not be approached during their mid-day resting period. Filming techniques include above water from a vessel, a pole-mounted underwater camera, and a waterproof camera used by a snorkeling cameraman. Up to 1,300 dolphins could be approached annually during filming activities. Footage would be used primarily for a television documentary about Hawaiian wildlife that would be aired on Animal Planet in the U.S. and elsewhere internationally. The initial filming period is scheduled for two weeks in June/July 2012. The permit would be valid for five years.

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: March 20, 2012.

Tammy C. Adams,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB107

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Council will convene a meeting of the Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT) which is open to the public.

DATES: The EPDT will meet on Thursday, April 12, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or when business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Seattle Airport, Mercer B Room, 17620 International Boulevard, Seattle, WA 98188-4001; telephone: (206) 244-4800.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Burner, Staff Officer; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Please note, this is not a public hearing; it is a work session for the primary purpose of drafting a report and recommendations to the Council on the Development of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). The primary purpose of the meeting is to address Council requests from and since the November 2011 Council meeting, revise and expand sections of the Council's developing Fishery Ecosystem Plan, discuss the content and format of an annual ecosystem report, explore mechanisms for incorporating ecosystem science into stock assessments, and revisit the need and mechanisms for expanding

protective measures for unexploited forage species. The EPDT may also develop recommendations for the June 2012 Council meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the EPDT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal EPDT action during this meeting. EPDT 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 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 Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 21, 2012.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-7165 Filed 3-23-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB106

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 Whiting Oversight Committee on April 17, 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 Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hotel Providence, 139 Mathewson Street, Providence, RI 02903; telephone: (401) 861-8000; fax: (401) 454-4306.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.