

Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), to examine whether significant environmental impacts could result from issuance of the proposed scientific research permit. The draft EA is available for review and comment simultaneous with the permit application.

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.

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations: 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;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426;

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249; and Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

Dated: March 28, 2012.

Tammy C. Adams,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-7859 Filed 3-30-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB139

Marine Mammals; File No. 17178

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Virginia Institute of Marine Science [Responsible Party: Elizabeth Canuel, Ph.D.], P.O. Box 1346, Route 1208 Greate Road, Gloucester Point, VA 23062, has applied in due form for a permit to import marine mammal parts for scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before May 2, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by

selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 17178 from the list of available applications.

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;

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701; phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309.

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 File No. 17178 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:

Laura Morse or Amy Sloan, (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 objective of the proposed research is to use chemical signals to provide insight into the dietary preferences and feeding ecology of Antarctic marine mammals by analyzing seal and whale samples for persistent organic pollutants, mercury, and stable isotopes. The following archived samples will be imported from the Swedish Museum of Natural History: fur, blood, and fat biopsies from up to 300 crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophaga*), 200 Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*), 50 Ross seals (*Ommatophoca Rossii*), and 25 leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) that were collected in Antarctica in 1987-1988, 2008-2009, and 2010-2011. The

requested duration of the import permit is 5 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 27, 2012.

Tammy C. Adams,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-7869 Filed 3-30-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB127

International Whaling Commission; 64th Annual Meeting; Nominations

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

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: This notice is a call for nominees for the U.S. Delegation to the July 2012 International Whaling Commission (IWC) annual meeting. The non-federal representative(s) selected as a result of this nomination process is(are) responsible for providing input and recommendations to the U.S. IWC Commissioner representing the positions of non-governmental organizations. Generally, only one non-governmental position is selected for the U.S. Delegation.

DATES: The IWC is holding its 64th annual meeting from July 2-6, 2012, at the El Panama Hotel in Panama City, Panama. All written nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the IWC annual meeting must be received by May 7, 2012.

ADDRESSES: All nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the IWC annual meeting should be addressed to Ms. Monica Medina, U.S. Commissioner to the IWC, and sent via post to: Melissa Andersen, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of International Affairs, 1315

East-West Highway, SSMC3 Room 10876.2, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melissa Andersen at Melissa.Andersen@noaa.gov or 301-427-8385.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the domestic obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. The U.S. IWC Commissioner has responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. The U.S. IWC Commissioner is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and by other agencies. The non-federal representative(s) selected as a result of this nomination process is(are) responsible for providing input and recommendations to the U.S. IWC Commissioner representing the positions of non-governmental organizations. Generally, only one non-governmental position is selected for the U.S. Delegation.

Dated: March 28, 2012.

Rebecca Lent,

Director, Office of International Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-7852 Filed 3-30-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XB128

Western Pacific 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 Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is hosting the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting on Tuesday May 1, 2012 through Thursday May 3, 2012, in Hawaii. The purpose of the meeting is to enable NMFS and NOAA officials and others to exchange information with the Regional Fishery Council Chairs and Executive Directors.

DATES: The CCC general meeting session will be held on May 1, 2012, from

1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., May 2, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on May 3, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

ADDRESSES: The CCC meeting will be held at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel Ballroom, 68-1400 Mauna Lani Drive, Big Island, HI 96743; telephone: (808) 885-6622.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; Council office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda for the CCC general session meeting will include the items listed here. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The CCC will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Schedule and Agenda for the CCC Meeting

1:30 p.m.– 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, 2012

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Opening Remarks.
3. Remarks from the Governor.
4. Council Reports on Status of Implementing Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Provisions and Other Current Activities of Interest.

8 a.m.–4 p.m., Wednesday, May 2, 2012

5. Panel Presentation and Discussion on Endangered Species Act Jeopardy Determination in Fisheries Management—Past, Present and Future.
6. Panel Discussion.
7. Litigation.
 - a. Regional Fishery Management Council Counsel Representation.
 - b. Update on Lawsuits.
8. Stock Assessments.
 - a. Next Generation Stock Assessments and Priorities.
 - b. Fisheries and the Environment (FATE).
 - c. Advanced Technology.
 - d. National Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) IV Recommendations.
 - e. Use (or lack thereof) of Best Available Science.
 - f. Allocating Resources to Support Assessments.

9. Bycatch, Cooperative Research, Habitat, 5-year Council Research Plan—Funding Opportunities for These Programs.

10. Report on the Success of MPAs for Fisheries.

11. President Obama's Executive Order on Improving Regulations and Regulatory Review (E.O. 13563).

8 a.m.–6 p.m., Thursday, May 3, 2012

12. Report on Legislation.

13. Administration's Activities on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning and the National Ocean Council.

14. Marginalization of Fisheries Through Competing Acts/Authorities.

15. Communities and Indigenous Issues.

16. International Fisheries Management.

a. Leveling the Playing Field for Domestic Fisheries.

b. Increasing Domestic Production to Reduce Trade Deficits.

c. Bilateral Agreements (Mexico, Canada, Others).

17. Budgets.

a. FY2012 Status of Council Funding.

b. FY2013 Update.

18. Communications.

a. NOAA Fisheries Activities.

b. Regional Fishery Management Council Coordination Committee Recommendations.

c. Managing Our Nations Fisheries

3.

19. Program Review.

a. Department of Commerce Inspector General Review of NOAA Fisheries and Fishery Management Councils in Fishery Rule Making Process and Transparency of Rule Making Process under MSA.

b. Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Visioning Project.

20. Administrative Matters.

a. Freedom of Information Act Requests.

b. Technology—Virtual Public Hearings/Scoping versus Travel.

c. Professional Liability.

d. Other Business and Next Annual CCC Meeting.

21. Adjourn Meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group 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 these meetings. Actions 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 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 Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220