

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Pacific Fishery Management 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 Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad Hoc Amendment 24 Workgroup will hold a work session, which is open to the public.

DATES: The Workgroup's work session will occur from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1 and continue on Thursday, August 2, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The work sessions will be held at the Building 9 Large Conference Room, NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Western Regional Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115-6349.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kevin Duffy, NOAA Fisheries Northwest Region, (206) 526-4743 or Dr. Kit Dahl, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council formed the Amendment 24 Workgroup to develop proposals for modifying the process to periodically establish and adjust harvest levels and management measures for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. Currently Council decisionmaking occurs every 2 years to set harvest specifications and management measures for the next 2-year period. Coordinating Council decisionmaking with the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, Administrative Procedure Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, such that National Marine Fisheries Service may implement regulations at the start of the next fishing year (January 1), has proved difficult. The Workgroup will develop alternatives to the current biennial process to address problems with timely implementation. These alternatives will be presented to the Council at a future meeting. The Council may then adopt an alternative for implementation, which may require an amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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

The meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: July 5, 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-XB054

Endangered Species; File No. 16598

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Inwater Research Group, Inc. (Responsible Party and Principal Investigator: Michael Bresette), 4160 NE Hyline Drive, Jensen Beach, FL 34957, has been issued a permit to take green (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

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

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Ave. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727) 824-5312; fax (727) 824-5309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Hapeman or Colette Cairns, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 5, 2012, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 13096) that a request for a scientific research permit to take green, loggerhead, hawksbill, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of 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).

The Permit Holder is authorized to conduct long-term research on the demographics and movements of green, loggerhead, hawksbill, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles in the Key West National Wildlife Refuge and the Big Bend of Florida. The objectives of the research are to: (1) Obtain information on sea turtle abundance, size frequencies, and sex ratios; (2) determine the genetic origin of sea turtle populations in the region; (3) continue to monitor turtle foraging habits; (4) track prevalence of fibropapillomatosis in sea turtles; (5) track green sea turtle movements west of the Marquesas Keys; and (6) identify habitat preferences of hawksbill sea turtles in the Key West National Wildlife Refuge. Up to 160 green, 160 loggerhead, 75 hawksbill, and 66 Kemp's ridley sea turtles may be captured annually for flipper and passive integrated transponder tagging, blood and tissue sampling, morphometrics, photography, and weights. A subset of sea turtles may be lavaged and/or satellite tagged. In addition to captures, researchers may conduct vessel surveys to observe and count sea turtles in the area. The permit is valid for five years.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, 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 or threatened species, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 5, 2012.

P. Michael Payne,

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

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