

survival and recovery for the listed species.

Dated: July 17, 2013.

**Angela Somma,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XC731**

#### Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Scoping Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of scoping meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold scoping meetings to obtain input from fishers, the general public, and the local agencies representatives on the development of island-specific fishery management plans for Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John, USVI and St. Croix, USVI. A fishery management plan will be developed for each of these areas.

The document entitled "Development of a Comprehensive Fishery Management Plan for the Exclusive Economic Zone of St. Thomas/St. John, USVI," will consider the following alternative actions:

*Action 1:* Establish the fishery management units (FMUs) for the comprehensive St. Thomas/St. John fishery management plan (FMP).

*Action 2:* Revise the species composition of the comprehensive St. Thomas/St. John FMP.

*Action 3:* Establish management reference points for any new species added to the comprehensive St. Thomas/St. John FMP.

*Action 4:* Modify or establish additional management measures.

The document entitled "Development of a Comprehensive Fishery Management Plan for the Exclusive Economic Zone of St. Croix, USVI," will consider the following alternative actions:

*Action 1:* Establish the fishery management units (FMUs) for the comprehensive St. Croix, USVI fishery management plan (FMP).

*Action 2:* Revise the species composition of the comprehensive St. Croix FMP.

*Action 3:* Establish management reference points for any new species added to the comprehensive St. Croix, USVI FMP.

*Action 4:* Modify or establish additional management measures.

The document entitled "Development of a Comprehensive Fishery Management Plan for the Exclusive Economic Zone of Puerto Rico," will consider the following alternative actions:

*Action 1:* Establish the fishery management units (FMUs) for the comprehensive Puerto Rico fishery management plan (FMP).

*Action 2:* Revise the species composition of the comprehensive Puerto Rico FMP.

*Action 3:* Establish management reference points for any new species added to the comprehensive Puerto Rico FMP.

*Action 4:* Modify or establish additional management measures.

The comprehensive plans will incorporate and modify, as needed, federal fishery management measures included in each of the existing species based management plans (Spiny Lobster, Reef Fish, Coral and Queen Conch). The goal is to create management plans tailored to the specific fishery management needs of each area. If approved, these new management plans being developed for each area; St. Thomas/St. John, USVI; St. Croix, USVI, and Puerto Rico, will replace the current species-based plans presently governing commercial and recreational harvest in the U.S. Caribbean federal waters.

*Dates and Addresses:* Due to the tropical storm Chantel the scoping meetings in these locations could not be held. The rescheduled scoping meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

*In Puerto Rico:*

August 5, 2013—7 p.m.—10 p.m.—Mayaguez Resort & Casino, Route 104, Km 0.3, Mayagüez 00680, Puerto Rico.

August 6, 2013—7 p.m.—10 p.m.—at the Holiday Inn Ponce & Tropical Casino, 3315 Ponce By Pass, Ponce, Puerto Rico.

*In the U.S. Virgin Islands:*

August 6, 2013—7 p.m.—10 p.m.—Windward Passage Hotel, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 766-5926.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold scoping meetings to receive

public input on the management options mentioned above. The complete document is available at:

[www.caribbeanfmc.com](http://www.caribbeanfmc.com) or you may contact Ms. Livia Montalvo at [livia\\_montalvo\\_cfm@yahoo.com](mailto:livia_montalvo_cfm@yahoo.com), or the Council office at (787) 766-5926 to obtain copies.

Written comments can be sent to the Council not later than July 31, 2013, by regular mail to the address below, or via email to [graciela\\_cfm@yahoo.com](mailto:graciela_cfm@yahoo.com).

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: June 17, 2013.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XC770**

#### 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 (Pacific Council) will convene a conference call of its Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC). A listening station will be available at the Pacific Council offices for interested members of the public, and there may be opportunities to attend the meeting remotely.

**DATES:** The conference call will be held Friday, August 16, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via conference call, with a public listening station available at the Pacific Council offices, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The primary purpose of the conference call is to discuss proposals to modify Pacific Coast groundfish EFH. Proposals are due to the Pacific Council on July 31, 2013, and proposals received after this date will not be considered. The conference call will also be used to prepare for upcoming EFHRC tasks to (1) produce an informational report for the September Pacific Council meeting, summarizing the number and content of proposals; and (2) produce a report and recommendations for the Pacific Council's November 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the EFHRC's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

This listening station 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: July 17, 2013.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA216

#### Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Space Vehicle and Missile Launch Operations at Kodiak Launch Complex, Alaska

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

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of a Letter of Authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and implementing regulations, notification

is hereby given that a Letter of Authorization (LOA) has been issued to the Alaska Aerospace Corporation (AAC) to take two species of pinnipeds incidental to space vehicle and missile launch operations at the Kodiak Launch Complex (KLC) in Kodiak, Alaska.

**DATES:** Effective from August 1, 2013, through July 31, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** The LOA and supporting documentation are available for review on the Internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications>. Documents cited in this notice may also be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours at the following address: Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michelle Magliocca, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 301-427-8401.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term "take" means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill marine mammals.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the identified species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth in the regulations. 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."

Regulations governing the taking of Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*), by harassment, and harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) (adults by harassment and pups by injury or mortality), incidental to space vehicle and missile launch operations at the KLC, were issued on March 22, 2011 (76 FR 16311, March 23,

2011), and remain in effect until March 21, 2016. For detailed information on the action, please refer to that document. The regulations include mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements for the incidental take of marine mammals during space vehicle and missile launch operations at the KLC.

#### Summary of Request

On July 1, 2013, NMFS received a request from the AAC for renewal of an LOA issued on April 30, 2012, authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to a maximum of 12 space launch vehicles, long-range ballistic target missiles, and other smaller missile systems at the KLC. The AAC has complied with the measures required in 50 CFR 217.70-75, as well as the associated 2012-2013 LOA, and submitted the reports and other documentation required by the final rule and the 2012-2013 LOA.

#### Summary of Activity Under the 2012-2013 LOA

As described in the AAC's 2012-2013 annual report, launch activities conducted at the KLC were within the scope and amounts authorized by the 2012-2013 LOA and the levels of take remain within the scope and amounts contemplated by the final rule. Zero launches occurred at the KLC under the 2012-2013 LOA.

#### Planned Activities and Estimated Take for 2013-2014

In 2013-2014, the AAC expects to conduct the same type and amount of launches identified in the 2012-2013 LOA. Similarly, the authorized take will remain within the annual estimates analyzed in the final rule.

#### Summary of Monitoring and Reporting Under the 2012-2013 LOA

The AAC submitted their annual monitoring report within the required timeframe and the report is posted on NMFS Web site: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications>. NMFS has reviewed the report and it contains the information required by the 2012-2013 LOA. The AAC's monitoring activities included three quarterly aerial surveys on July 8, 2012, October 20, 2012, and March 16, 2013. The results from these surveys were typical and showed 747-975 harbor seals and no Steller sea lions.

#### Authorization

The AAC complied with the requirements of the 2012-2013 LOA. Based on our review of the record,