

Improvement Project Plan for public comment. The Plan has been written to document NOAA's commitment to work with its partners in hurricane research and development to improve its capabilities to forecast hurricanes.

DATES: Comments on this draft document must be submitted by 5 p.m. EDT on May 27, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The draft NOAA Hurricane Forecasting Improvement Project Plan will be available on the NOAA Research Council Web site at <http://www.nrc.noaa.gov/HFIPDraftPlan.html>.

The public is encouraged to submit comments electronically to noaa.review.hfip_plan@noaa.gov. For individuals who do not have access to the internet, comments may be submitted by mail to: NOAA Research, c/o Mr. Roger Pierce, Silver Spring Metro Center Bldg. 3, Room 11412, R/PPE, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Roger Pierce, Silver Spring Metro Center Bldg. 3, Room 11314, R/PPE, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone 301-734-1062, Fax: 301-713-0158, E-mail:

roger.pierce@noaa.gov), during normal business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA is publishing this notice to announce the availability of the draft NOAA Hurricane Forecasting Improvement Project Plan for public comment. The NOAA is seeking public comment from all interested parties. The NOAA Hurricane Forecasting Improvement Project Plan draft is being issued for comment only and is not intended for interim use. Suggested changes will be incorporated where appropriate, and the final document will be posted on a NOAA Web site.

The NOAA Hurricane Forecasting Improvement Project Plan is being developed to reflect the evolution of NOAA's research activities and priorities. The draft NOAA Hurricane Forecasting Improvement Project Plan is consistent with the NOAA Science Advisory Board, Hurricane Intensity Research Working Group recommendations and other recent internal and external reports on hurricanes.

The draft NOAA Hurricane Forecasting Improvement Project Plan frames research in NOAA within the context of societal needs and by working with other government and academic organizations working on critical environmental challenges, particularly those associated with hurricanes, facing the United States

today and in the future. This plan states NOAA's priority research areas, such as Hurricane Intensity forecast improvements, improvements in high performance computing, use of new data, for the short term and the milestones by which NOAA intends to measure progress within these areas. Significant topics addressed in the NOAA Hurricane Forecasting Improvement Project Plan include the importance of transition of research to application, the recognition of the value of transformational research, and the engagement and alignment of inter-agency and the larger scientific community efforts toward finding solutions to the challenges posed to improve hurricane forecasts.

NOAA welcomes all comments on the content of the draft NOAA Hurricane Forecasting Improvement Project Plan. We also request comments on any inconsistencies perceived within the document and possible omissions of important topics or issues. For any shortcoming noted within the draft document, please propose specific remedies.

Please follow these instructions for preparing and submitting comments. Using the format guidance described below will facilitate the processing of reviewer comments and assure that all comments are appropriately considered. Overview comments should be provided first. Comments that are specific to particular pages, paragraphs, or lines of the section should follow any overview comments and should identify the page numbers to which they apply. Please number each page of your comments.

Dated: April 21, 2008.

Mark E. Brown,

Chief Financial Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-9062 Filed 4-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XH09

Marine Mammals; File No. 774-1714

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) (Jeremy Rusin,

Principal Investigator), Protected Resources Division, 8604 La Jolla Shores Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037 has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 774-1714-06.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Hapeman or Carrie Hubbard, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 12, 2007, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 10986) that an amendment of Permit No. 774-1714, issued June 30, 2004 (68 FR 57673), had been requested by the above-named organization. The requested amendment has been granted 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 222-226).

Permit No. 774-1714-07 authorizes the SWFSC to conduct research on seven pinniped species, 55 cetacean species, and five sea turtle species in the Pacific, Indian, Atlantic, Arctic and Southern Oceans. The permit authorizes Level B harassment during aerial and vessel surveys for photo-identification/photogrammetry, incidental harassment, collection of sloughed skin, and salvage of carcasses and parts; Level A harassment for capture, biopsy sampling, and tagging activities; and the import/export of specimens. This amendment: (1) reorganizes the take table to reflect annual takes instead of 5-year cumulative takes; (2) increases the number of animals harassed during aerial and vessel surveys, biopsy sampled, and/or tagged for several cetacean species; (3) collapses authorized takes of six cetacean stocks to the species level; (4) adds Antarctic minke whales (*Balaenoptera bonaerensis*) to species that may be harassed during aerial and vessel surveys for photo-id and biopsy sampled; (5) adds four new cetacean categories for animals that are observed but not identifiable during surveys; (6) adds 14 cetacean species/stocks to those that may be harassed/sampled in the Southern Ocean; and (7) authorizes the satellite tagging of 50 non-endangered killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) in Antarctic

waters annually. The amended permit is valid until it expires on June 30, 2009.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an environmental assessment was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities. After a Finding of No Significant Impact, the determination was made that it was not necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement.

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 species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521;

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;

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

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

Dated: April 21, 2008.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. E8-9114 Filed 4-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 06480-XH24

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings; Modification of E-mail Addresses

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

ACTION: Modification of e-mail addresses published in the document entitled "South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings", which

published in the **Federal Register** on April 17, 2008.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council has modified email addresses for submitting public hearing comments for Amendment 16 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan and for the Comprehensive Ecosystem Amendment. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific details.

DATES: The public comment period for these amendments are open until 5 p.m., May 16, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Bob Mahood, Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405. Copies of the public hearing documents are available from Kim Iverson, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; telephone: (843)571-4366 or toll free at (866)SAFMC-10.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone (843)571-4366 or toll free 866/SAFMC-10; FAX 843/769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 17, 2008, NMFS published notification of public hearings and scoping meetings to be held from May 7 through May 15, 2008. The open period for written comments for these meetings ends at 5 p.m. on May 16, 2008. The e-mail addresses for comments regarding the Snapper Grouper Amendment 16 and the e-mail address for the Comprehensive Ecosystem Amendment were not listed correctly. The correct e-mail addresses are as follows:

For the Snapper Grouper Amendment 16, the e-mail address is SGAmend16@safmc.net

For the Comprehensive Ecosystem Amendment, the e-mail address is FEPCEA@safmc.net

All other information in the April 17, 2008, document (FR Doc. E8-8286) remains unchanged.

Dated: April 22, 2008.

William D. Chappell,

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

[FR Doc. E8-9117 Filed 4-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-C-2008-0017]

Public Advisory Committees

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office.

ACTION: Notice and request for nominations.

SUMMARY: On November 29, 1999, the President signed into law the Patent and Trademark Office Efficiency Act (the "Act"), Pub. L. 106-113, which, among other things, established two Public Advisory Committees to review the policies, goals, performance, budget and user fees of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with respect to patents, in the case of the Patent Public Advisory Committee, and with respect to trademarks, in the case of the Trademark Public Advisory Committee, and to advise the Director on these matters (now codified at 35 U.S.C. 5). The USPTO is requesting nominations for three (3) members to each Public Advisory Committee for terms of three years that begin from date of appointment.

DATES: Nominations must be postmarked or electronically transmitted on or before May 30, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to submit nominations should send the nominee's resumé to Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450; by electronic mail to:

PPACnominations@uspto.gov for the Patent Public Advisory Committee or TPACnominations@uspto.gov for the Trademark Patent Public Advisory Committee; by facsimile transmission marked to the Chief of Staff's attention at (571) 273-0464, or by mail marked to the Chief of Staff's attention and addressed to the Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eleanor K. Meltzer, Chief of Staff, by facsimile transmission marked to her attention at (571) 273-0464, or by mail marked to her attention and addressed to the Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committees' duties include: