

made via first class mail at a cost of 44 cents per submission. Therefore, the total estimated postage cost for this collection is \$1,126 (2560 responses × \$0.44).

#### IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 5, 2009.

**Susan K. Fawcett,**

*Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. E9-27331 Filed 11-12-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XS78

##### Incidental Taking of Marine Mammals; Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to the Explosive Removal of Offshore Structures in the Gulf of Mexico

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of a letter of authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued a one-year Letters of Authorization (LOA) to take marine mammals incidental to the explosive removal of offshore oil and gas structures (EROS) in the Gulf of Mexico.

**DATES:** This authorization is effective from November 10, 2009 through November 9, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and LOAs are available for review by writing to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation, and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3235 or by telephoning the contact listed here (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or online at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm>. Documents cited in this notice may be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours, at the aforementioned address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Howard Goldstein or Ken Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 301-713-2289.

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

Authorization for incidental taking, in the form of annual LOAs, may be granted by NMFS for periods up to five years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals, and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant). In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat (i.e., mitigation), and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating rounds, and areas of similar significance. The regulations also must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking incidental to EROS were published on June 19, 2008 (73 FR 34889), and remain in effect through July 19, 2013. For detailed information on this action, please refer to that **Federal Register** notice. The species that applicants may take in small numbers during EROS activities are bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*),

pantropical spotted dolphins (*Stenella attenuata*), Clymene dolphins (*Stenella clymene*), striped dolphins (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*), rough-toothed dolphins (*Steno bredanensis*), Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*), melon-headed whales (*Peponocephala electra*), short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), and sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*).

Pursuant to these regulations, NMFS has issued an LOA to Tarpon Operating & Development, L.L.C. Issuance of the LOA is based on a finding made in the preamble to the final rule that the total taking by these activities (with monitoring, mitigation, and reporting measures) will result in no more than a negligible impact on the affected species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on subsistence uses. NMFS also finds that the applicant will meet the requirements contained in the implementing regulations and LOA, including monitoring, mitigation, and reporting requirements.

Dated: November 6, 2009.

**James H. Lecky,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E9-27316 Filed 11-12-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XS84

##### North 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 of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and Alaska Board of Fisheries.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Alaska Board of Fisheries will meet in Anchorage, AK.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on December 8, 2009, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Avenue, Aleutian Room, Anchorage, AK.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Council staff, Jane Dicosimo; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Review Joint Protocol; Status of Steller Sea Lion Biological Opinion; Discuss Board proposals potentially affecting federal groundfish fisheries; Status of proposed GOA cod federal actions; Status of chum salmon bycatch action; Crab and Scallop annual catch limits; Update on Council community outreach; Update on Walrus and fishery interaction issues; Update on Arctic Fishery Management Plan; Update on Federal Observer Program changes; Other business. The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/>.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 9, 2009.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E9-27265 Filed 11-12-09; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XS85**

#### Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a

joint meeting of the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committees.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 and conclude by 12 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2009. The meeting will be webcast over the internet. A link to the webcast will be available on the Council's web site, <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hilton, 901 Airline Drive, Kenner, LA 70062.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On the first day of the meeting, the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committees and the Red Snapper Advisory Panel will meet jointly to hear a presentation on the update stock assessment for red snapper. Following the presentation, the Scientific and Statistical Committees and Advisory Panel will reconvene separately to continue any discussion of the update stock assessment and make any management recommendations. The Scientific and Statistical Committees will evaluate the adequacy of the assessment for management purposes and will recommend a level of acceptable biological catch. The acceptable biological catch is a catch level which the Council cannot exceed when setting the annual catch limit for red snapper. The Scientific and Statistical Committees will also review a draft Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule that is being developed by an Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule Working Group, will discuss acceptable biological catch Control rules for data-moderate and data-poor stocks, review analyses of species groupings and recommend groupings for Acceptable Biological Catches, and discuss the next steps to take in the development of acceptable biological catch control rules. The recommendations made by the Scientific and Statistical Committees will be presented to the Council at its February 1 - 4, 2010 meeting in Mobile, AL.

Copies of the agenda and other related materials can be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630 or can be downloaded from the Council's ftp site, <ftp.gulfcouncil.org>.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Scientific and Statistical Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Scientific and Statistical Committees will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 Council's intent to take 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 Tina O'Hern at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: November 9, 2009.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E9-27266 Filed 11-12-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XS86**

#### Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a meeting of the Red Snapper Advisory Panel.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 and conclude by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 2009. The meeting will be webcast over the internet. A link to the webcast will be available on the Council's web site, <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hilton, 901 Airline Drive, Kenner, LA 70062.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 N.