

Scallop Plan Development Team (PDT) that will be discussed by the Oversight Committee include, but are not limited to: measures to reduce impacts on essential fish habitat; general category management measures including a proposal for limited access; industry-funded research and observer programs including total allowable catch (TAC)/days-at-sea (DAS) set-asides; experimental Fishing Permit procedures and research including TAC/DAS set-asides; data collection and monitoring, and other options as needed.

Friday, September 7, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. – Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting.

Location: Rossi's Restaurant, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, MA 01950; telephone: (978) 499-0240.

The SSC will review the Scallop PDT recommendations for status determination criteria (overfishing definition) for scallops under rotational area management. They will develop guidance for the Council regarding Skate PDT recommendations for skate status determination criteria. The agenda will also include the review of the Red Crab PDT recommendations for red crab status determination criteria (overfishing definition). The committee will also develop guidance for Council on including Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) 33 results for white hake, redfish and Gulf of Maine cod in Multispecies Amendment 13.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this 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 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 Paul J. Howard (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: August 16, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 01-21208 Filed 8-21-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081501B]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT) will hold a work session, which is open to the public.

DATES: The HMSPDT will meet on Tuesday, September 18, 2001; Wednesday, September 19, 2001; and Thursday, September 20, 2001. The HMSPDT will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.; on Thursday the HMSPDT will meet from 8:30 a.m. until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The work session will be held at the Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, East Conference Room, 2595 Ingraham Street, San Diego, CA 92109, telephone: 691-226-3870.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Waldeck, Pacific Fishery Management Council, telephone: 503-326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to incorporate Council, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Advisory Subpanel, and HMSPDT recommendations into a public review draft of the fishery management plan (FMP) for West Coast based highly migratory species fisheries, which will be submitted to the Council at their November 2001 meeting. This is a working meeting devoted to revising previous drafts into the public review draft. Time for public comment will be provided after each agenda topic. The proposed agenda is as follows:

Tuesday, September 18, 2001, 8:30 a.m.

- A. Call to Order
- B. Introductions
- C. Review and Approval of Agenda
- D. Distribute and Review New Documents
- E. Review Revised FMP

Wednesday, September 19, 2001, 8:30 a.m.

- A. Review Revised FMP (continued, as necessary)

B. Review Regulatory Document

Thursday, September 20, 2001, 8:30 a.m.

A. Review Regulatory Document (continued, as necessary)

B. Further Discussion as Needed

C. Deadlines for Final Draft Report to Council

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the HMSPDT meeting agenda may come before the HMSPDT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal HMSPDT action during this meeting. HMSPDT 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 HMSPDT's intent to take final 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 Ms. Carolyn Porter at 503-326-6352 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 16, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081601A]

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 774-1649 and 1010-1641

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have applied in due form for a permit to take marine mammals for purposes of scientific research:

File No. 774-1649 - NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037 (Principal Investigator: Rennie S. Holt, PhD); and File No. 1010-1641 - Aleutians East Borough, 211 4th Street, Suite 314, Juneau, AK 99801 (Principal Investigator: Ms. Kate Wynne).

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before September 21, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

All actions available in the Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 713-0376;

File 774-1649 - Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562) 980-4018;

File 1010-1641 - Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426; and

File 1010-641 - Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Tammy Adams (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permits are requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 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).

File 774-1679 - The United States Antarctic Marine Living Resources (U.S.-AMLR) Program, administered by the SWFSC, requests permission to take pinniped species in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica, as part of a long-term ecosystem monitoring program established in 1986. Permission is requested to take Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*), Southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*), Crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*), Leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*), Ross seals (*Ommatophoca rossii*), and Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) by harassment associated with life history studies and census surveys for abundance and distribution of pinnipeds. The targeted species for census surveys is the Antarctic fur seal, however, due to overlap of their breeding range with southern elephant and ice seals, a relatively small number of other Antarctic pinniped could be

taken incidentally during these surveys. Studies will be conducted annually during austral summers over the next five years (2001/02-2005/06) and primarily restricted to Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, Antarctica. The AMLR Program also proposes to conduct a regional census survey for estimates of abundance and distribution of pinniped in the South Shetlands.

File 1010-1641 - The applicant proposes to take Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) by harassment during aerial surveys, vessel-based behavioral observations, and scat collection. The purpose of the research is to provide additional information on seasonal prey consumption by Steller sea lions through scat collection at rookeries and haulouts along the Alaska Peninsula and Eastern Aleutian Islands and to improve the accuracy and precision of population indices through expanded aerial and vessel surveys in the western Gulf of Alaska.

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 activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on a particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register, NMFS is forwarding copies of the applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: August 16, 2001.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 01-21206 Filed 8-21-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081501D]

Draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001)

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of and seeks public comment on the draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001). The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) requires the Secretary of Commerce to develop, triennially, a strategic plan for fisheries research for the subsequent years. Any written comments on the draft plan will be considered by NMFS in the development of the final Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001).

DATES: Comments on the draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) will be accepted on or before September 21, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments on and requests for copies of the draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) should be directed to John T. Everett, Chief, Research, Analysis, and Coordination Division, Office of Science and Technology, NMFS, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. PHONE: (301) 713-2363. FAX: (301) 713-1875.

The NMFS draft Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) may be reviewed in its entirety on the World Wide Web at <http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st2/index.html>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Everett or Mark Chandler at 301-713-2363 ext. 152.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 404 of the MSFCMA requires the Secretary of Commerce to publish in the **Federal Register** a strategic plan for fisheries research for the five years immediately following the its publication. The MSFCMA requires that the plan address four major areas of research: (1) Research to support fishery conservation and management; (2) conservation engineering research; (3) research on the fisheries; and (4) information management research. The MSFCMA specifies that the plan shall contain a limited number of priority objectives for each of these research